'yes' OPTUS

AUSTRALIA v NEW ZEALAND SUNDAY 5 JUNE 2011 ADELAIDE OVAL

THE SOCCEROO

ISSUE 19 $10.00 AUSTRALIA

QANTAS SOCCEROOS v NEW ZEALAND

The New Breed

The next generation is ready to step up

INCLUDING WILKSHIRE VALERI JEDINAK AND MORE...

OFFICIAL SOUVENIR MATCH PROGRAMME

Help Optus find tomorrow's stars.
Nominate now at optus.com.au/football
Competition ends 31/08/11. To find out more about voting and the detailed terms and conditions go to optus.com.au/football. OPTUS12762/TS
SMALL SIDED FOOTBALL AWARDS
'yes' OPTUS

AUSTRALIA

CONTENTS

Australia v New Zealand 5 June 2011

7 **FFA** Welcome

9 **South Australian Premier** Welcome

10 **Holger Osieck** Column

12 **On The Ball** News Round-Up

16 **Cover Feature** The New Breed

24 **Meet The Qantas Socceroos**

32 **Golden Moment** Brett Holman

34 **Qantas Socceroos and New Zealand Line-ups**

36 **New Zealand** New Respect... we profile today's visitors

42 **Where Were You When?**

44 **The Westfield Matildas** Bound for the 2011 Women's FIFA World Cup we meet three of their biggest stars

50 **Qantas Socceroos** FIFA U-20 World Cup Colombia 2011 preview

54 **Young Guns** Mitchell Langerak and Mustafa Amini

57 **Half-Time Quiz** Test your grey matter

59 **Adelaide's Socceroo history** A look back at the city's rich tradition with the green and gold

62 **Fan Focus** Jess Martin

66 **Number Crunch** New Zealand

HYUNDAI
NEW THINKING. NEW POSSIBILITIES.

AUSTRALIA
HYUNDAI A-LEAGUE

No one's tougher on us, than us.

The new Hyundai i45.

A car that sets new benchmarks in design, comfort, performance, efficiency and safety. With a phenomenal level of standard equipment, i45 not only looks beautiful, it's beautifully made. In fact, we subject each and every i45 to 500 quality tests.

But perhaps the best feature is lurking beneath the bonnet. The all alloy, 16 valve 2.4 Theta-II engine utilises the very latest technology to run extraordinarily cleanly and efficiently, yet produces 148kW of power for effortless performance.

- USB audio input with iPod® connectivity#
- Dusk sensing headlamps
- 6 speed transmission, sequential manual mode & paddle shift†
- ESC, ABS, TCS, HAC
- 148kW power/ 250 Nm torque
- 7.9 L/100km combined, 188g/km CO_2^

The i45 is ready for the most important test of all... yours. Visit i45.com.au to book a test drive today.

i45 Driven by Obsession

†Elite and Premium models. ^Source: ADR81/02. Fuel consumption will vary depending on a combination of driving habits and the condition of the vehicle. #Requires Genuine Hyundai Accessories Direct Connect for iPod®. iPod® is a registered trademark of Apple Computer, Inc., registered in the U.S. and other countries. HMCA3848/FPC/i45/443

Welcome New Zealand

FFA Chairman Frank Lowy AC

Welcome to the Qantas Socceroos international friendly match against New Zealand here at the historic Adelaide Oval.

In particular, I would like to once again extend a warm welcome to our friends from New Zealand for what will be our 64th match against each other since first meeting in Dunedin back on the 17th June 1922.

Much has happened since our two teams last met 12 months ago at the Melbourne Cricket Ground for that memorable farewell match before both teams headed off to the 2010 FIFA World Cup.

Our Qantas Socceroos produced a gallant performance in the group phase of the 2010 FIFA World Cup, narrowly missing out on progressing to the knock-out phase on goal-difference.

While on the subject of the 2010 FIFA World Cup, I would also like to take the opportunity to also congratulate New Zealand on their commendable performances in South Africa after a 28 year hiatus at the FIFA World Cup.

Even though the 2010 FIFA World Cup is still in our recent memory, many changes have affected the Qantas Socceroos in the past year. The biggest change is the appointment of our new Qantas Socceroos Head Coach Holger Osieck. In the 12 matches that Holger has been in charge of the team, we have seen much success already including our AFC Asian Cup Qatar 2011 campaign where we made the final only to be narrowly beaten by Japan and the most recent 2-1 victory over Germany in Monchengladbach.

We look forward to further success under Holger's management of the Qantas Socceroos.

I would like to thank our partners for their ongoing support and especially to the South Australian Premier Mike Rann and his Government for their contribution to hosting tonight's match.

My best wishes to both teams for what I am sure will be a competitive and enjoyable match for all and also all the best for both teams as they embark on their respective campaigns to qualify for the 2014 FIFA World Cup in Brazil.

Frank Lowy AC
CHAIRMAN
FOOTBALL FEDERATION AUSTRALIA

> "Much has happened since our two teams last met 12 months ago for that memorable farewell match at the MCG"

FOOTBALL FEDERATION AUSTRALIA

Welcome to Adelaide Oval

South Australian Premier Mike Rann

As excitement builds ahead of qualification for the 2014 FIFA World Cup, we are delighted to welcome the Qantas Socceroos and their supporters back to South Australia, and to the new-look Adelaide Oval.

This game provides an ideal opportunity for football fans to gauge how coach Holger Osieck and his squad are progressing along the road to Brazil 2014, with the 2014 FIFA World Cup Asian Qualifers to begin in September this year.

Of course, Adelaide Oval enjoys a proud history as host to some of world sport's greatest names, from Sir Donald Bradman to Shane Warne, as well as top-flight sports including cricket, rugby and rugby league.

Now, as the historic venue enters an exciting new era, it adds this clash between close neighbours and strong rivals, the Qantas Socceroos and the All Whites, to that roll call.

As the Qantas Socceroos' first appearance in Adelaide since 2004, it provides South Australia's sporting community with the chance to show the strength of the world game's following here, and I urge everyone – from the Hill to the new Western Stand – to show their appreciation and support.

It also further highlights South Australia's reputation as the Festival State, and I encourage all interstate and overseas visitors to take the opportunity to sample our city's renowned food and hospitality, and to explore our unique attractions such as the Adelaide Hills, Barossa Valley and Kangaroo Island.

I congratulate the officials, umpires, organisers, sponsors and volunteers for making this event possible, and I wish players and supporters of both teams all the very best for this evening's game, and for the FIFA World Cup qualifying matches ahead.

Mike Rann
PREMIER OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA

> "Adelaide Oval enjoys a proud history as host to some of the world's greatest sporting names and top-flight sports"

South Australia.
A brilliant blend.

Tough test for my boys

Holger Osieck Head Coach Qantas Socceroos

Dear friends and supporters of the Qantas Socceroos, it is with great pleasure to welcome you to today's game against New Zealand at the Adelaide Oval. After a long absence our team will be back for an international in South Australia.

I am looking forward to this game for a couple of reasons. First of all I expect a fantastic atmosphere as I experienced already the enthusiasm of the Adelaide crowd on the occasion of the Hyundai A-League match between Adelaide United and Melbourne Victory.

Secondly, our guest team tonight will be a challenging opponent. I am aware of the rivalry between the Socceroos and the "All Whites" which always adds some extra excitement to the game. During the FIFA World Cup in South Africa I had the opportunity to watch two of the New Zealand games live and I was impressed by their tactical discipline and overall attitude.

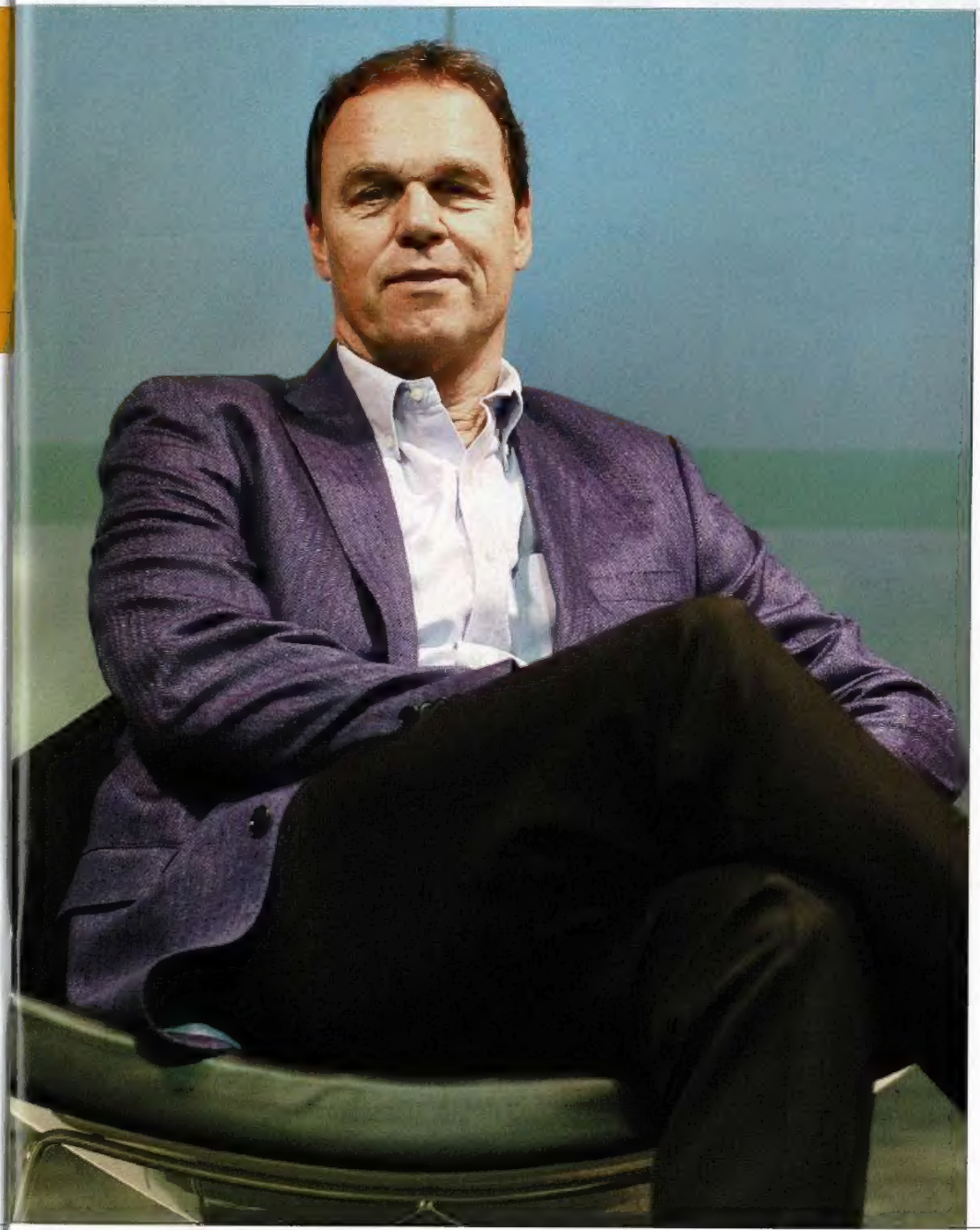
In terms of our team we have a good mixture of experienced and some promising young players. It will be interesting for me to see how these boys will respond to the test in this very prestigious match.

As this game is another important step for us in preparation for the qualifying campaign for the 2014 FIFA World Cup in Brazil, I am pretty sure that our team will take the opportunity to impress and perform.

I am confident that tonight both teams will provide an exciting entertainment and make this game a memorable one. In closing I would like to thank all our fans for their continuous support of the Qantas Socceroos and I hope you all enjoy tonight's match.

Holger Osieck
HEAD COACH
QANTAS SOCCEROOS

> "I'm expecting a fantastic atmosphere against a challenging opponent"



ON THE BALL

A quick round-up of the latest happenings in Aussie football

Westfield Matildas gear up for Germany

The Westfield Matildas head to the Gold Coast this month to round out their preparations for the 2011 FIFA Women's World Cup to be held in Germany later this month.

The training camp will be a final chance for many players to press their claims for a squad berth before the reigning AFC Asian Cup champions fly to Germany on June 14.

Once in Germany, the Westfield Matildas will play two behind closed-door preparatory games against England and Mexico.

At the 2011 FIFA Women's World Cup Australia take on Brazil in their opening group match before clashes against Norway and Equatorial Guinea.

TheWestfield Matildas' final game on home soil was last month's 2-1 friendly victory over New Zealand in front of a healthy crowd of 2,866 at Bluetongue Stadium on the Central Coast. Coach Tom Sermanni's side maintained their 17-year unbeaten streak against New Zealand, and took the early advantage through a Catherine Cannuli header.

The lead was to be short-lived, however, as the Football Ferns leveled matters midway through the first half courtesy of a Hannah Wilkinson tap-in.

But skilful Collette McCallum's ninth international goal from a trademark free-kick on the edge of the penalty box just after halftime gave the Westfield Matildas a lead that they would hold for the remainder of the game.

*See a full report on the Westfield Matildas on page 44 of this issue.

WESTFIELD MATILDAS WORLD CUP COVERAGE

You can watch the Matildas on free-to-air TV later this month. Westfield Matildas v Brazil: **1.45am** (AEST), Wednesday June 29, SBS ONE. Westfield Matildas v Equatorial Guinea: **9.30pm** (AEST), Sunday July 3, SBS TWO.Westfield Matildas v Norway: **2am** (AEST), Wednesday July 6, SBS ONE

And for those who want to read more on the Matildas, our girls have made history. For the first time in FourFourTwo history anywhere in the world, a female footballer graces the front cover. Pele, Maradona, Cantona, Beckham... now it's Kerr, Barbieri and Simon.

"I used to think being in the same magazine as ones with Beckham on the front cover was pretty special. Now I'm on the front cover," says Matildas skipper Melissa Barbieri with a laugh. FourFourTwo Australia magazine,with the Westfield Matildas on the cover is out now.

And also check out Girls FC on Facebook.

Qantas Joeys' tough task

The Qantas Joeys have been drawn in Group F alongside Côte d'Ivoire, Brazil and Denmark for the 2011 FIFA U-17 World Cup Mexico, which will be played from June 18 to July 10.

Following the draw, Qantas Joeys Head Coach Jan Versleijen's (pictured above) first impression was that his team has a challenging but not impossible draw.

"If you compare the Joeys draw to the Young Socceroos draw, there is more variation in the strength of the U-17 groups compared to the U-20 groups," said Versleijen. "We know about the Denmark team who are historically well-organised. The Ivorians are a little bit of an unknown, but have a hybrid African/ European style of play with plenty of strength and ability.

"Of course, the Brazilian style of play is very well known and this will be an important match for us in the group stage.

"The advantage that we have going into the tournament is that the majority of our squad is based at the Australian Institute of Sport and the players are very familiar with each other.

"Again our goal will be to progress from the group phase into the knock-out phase and then beyond," concluded Versleijen.

The Qantas Joeys travel to Mexico in early June for a pre-tournament camp in Pachuca, before moving to their base camp in the city of Guadalajara, during the first phase of the tournament.

The Qantas Joeys will play their first match of the tournament against Côte d'Ivoire on Monday June 20, then face Brazil on Thursday June 23, before their final group match against Denmark on Sunday June 26.

The Qantas Joeys will be playing Côte d'Ivoire and Brazil in Guadalajara on an artificial grass field, with the final group match against Denmark on a grass pitch in Queretaro..

The Qantas Joeys qualified for the FIFA U-17 World Cup having made the semi-final of the AFC U-16 Youth Championships in Tashkent, Uzbekistan last year. Their matches, the Semis and Final of the FIFA U-17 World Cup Mexico 2011 will be broadcast live on SBS TV.

GIVE SMOKING A RED CARD

Smoking kills more than 15,000 Australians each year and is a leading cause of cancer, heart disease, stroke and emphysema. Most of us know of the dangers of smoking, but there are still nearly 2.9 million Australians aged over 14 years who smoke every day.

The Australian govt is committed to reducing smoking rates and helping Australians to improve their health. The new 'National Tobacco Campaign' is the biggest-ever national campaign of its kind and encourages smokers to quit now.

To help promote the quitting message to football fans across the nation, the 'National Tobacco Campaign' is pleased to announce its association with FFA. Quitting successfully may take a number of attempts.

Advice is available to help smokers quit. Visit www.australia.gov.au/quitnow or call the Quitline on 137 848 for more information.

So why not give smoking a 'red card' this season and kick the habit for good.

Cottees 5-a-Side Football

Cottee's Schools 5-A-Side has kicked off again for 2011 and Hyundai A-League players are currently travelling to clinics around Australia to help Cottee's spread football fun to schoolkids everywhere!

Most recently the Cottee's Schools 5-A-Side Football program visited lucky schools in Doncaster East, Victoria, taking along Melbourne Victory players Carlos Hernandez and Petar Franjic to welcome students and assist with skills and games.

Newcastle Jets' midfielder Jobe Wheelhouse and defender Nikolai Topor-Stanley also recently attended a NSW event in Lake Macquarie which hosted more than 200 primary school kids.

Teams like the 'Apple Raspberry Aliens' and 'Coola Crazies' are pitted against each other to add an extra bit of interest for participants - letting them match up with their favourite cordial flavours.

Having been involved in Australian families' lives for generations, the Cottee's Schools 5-A-side program aims to bring together fun, active participation and football in a day that also gets the kids out of their normal school environment.

And for an extra treat, participants get to take home a showbag full of football goodies!

It's all about getting kids and their families involved in the game of football and encouraging healthy fun-filled lifestyles.

COTTEES CONTACTS

If you'd like to get involved or know someone who would, contact the relevant person below from your state:

Key contacts
South Australia - Football Federation SA, Ph: (08) 8354 1003, info@ffsa.com.au

Victoria - Football Federation Victoria, Ph: (03) 9474 1800, info@footballfedvic.com.au

To find out more about the Cottee's Schools 5-a-side program and how to register your school, visit cottees.com.au/football

QANTAS YOUNG SOCCEROOS READY FOR COLOMBIA

Qantas Young Socceroos Head Coach Jan Versleijen selected a mixture of Australian-based and overseas-based players in his 23-player squad for a European training camp from 23 May to 6 June 2011. During the tour the Qantas Young Socceroos were based in the Netherlands and played a friendly match against the German U-19 National team in Kamen-Kaiserau. They also competed at the Terborg Tournament.

This camp was last chance for the players to bid for a place in the final squad that will compete at the FIFA U-20 World Cup which will be held in Colombia from 29 July to 20 August. Meanwhile the Qantas Olyroos will face Yemen on the 19th and 23rd June 2011 with the venues to be confirmed by the AFC shortly.

Pararoos in action

FOOTBALL FEDERATION AUSTRALIA

The Australian Paralympic 7-A-Side football team, 'The Pararoos', have been drawn alongside Brazil, Netherlands and Spain in Group A of the 2011 Cerebral Palsy International Sports and Recreation Association (CPISRA) Football 7-A-Side World Championships which will be held in the Province of Drenthe, Netherlands from June 17 to July 1, 2011.

The CPISRA Football 7-a-Side World Championships will serve as the qualifiers for the 2012 London Paralympic Games, with the top seven teams progressing to the final tournament next year.

To coincide with the draw, Pararoos head coach Paul Brown took announced his 12-player squad.

Brown believes the squad he has selected is the strongest side Australia will take away to date and will surprise many of his international opponents. "Our goal is to qualify for the 2012 London Paralympic Games and at this moment in time, I am optimistic about our chances," he said.

The Pararoos, who are funded by the Australian Paralympic Committee and supported by Football Federation Australia, had a camp in Sydney from May 27-29, before flying out to the Netherlands on June 10 before their first match on the June 18, when they meet Spain. Two days later, they will face Brazil and their final group match will be against the host nation, The Netherlands, on June 22.

Pararoos Squad For Holland

Name	State
David Barber (Captain)	QLD
Chris Pyne (Vice Captain)	NSW
Ben Atkins	NSW
Jared Eiby	QLD
Brett Fairhall	NSW
Thomas Goodman	SA
Scott Kennedy	QLD
Sam Larkings	NSW
Beau Menzies	QLD
Jamie Paulsen	QLD
Ben Roche	VIC
Jack Williams	NSW

FFA AND STATES FORUM

FFA Chairman Frank Lowy and FFA CEO Ben Buckley

Football Federation Australia (FFA) Chairman, Mr Frank Lowy AC, and FFA CEO Ben Buckley recently met with the leaders of the State and Territory Member Federations in Sydney as part of the game's regular national consultations.

Nick Monteleone (President, FFV), Rachel Harrigan (President, Capital Football), Andrew Cripps (President, Football Federation Northern Territory) and Robert Sestan (chairman, Football NSW) were the new faces at the leaders' summit.

Liam Twigger (Vice-President, Football West) was attending on behalf of the new Football West President Bob Kucera, while Northern NSW Football CEO David Eland was representing his Chairman Peter Moore.

Also in attendance were Sean Collins (President, Football Federation Tasmania), Rauf Soulio (President, Football Federation South Australia) and Dennis O'Brien (Football Queensland). The meeting discussed the FFA Strategic Plan for the 2014 FIFA World Cup cycle, national governance structures, the 'My Football Club' project, relations between Member Federations and Hyundai A-League clubs, the Westfield W-League and the Club Accreditation Pilot being conducted by FFV.

Mr Lowy reaffirmed that he intended to seek a fresh, four-year mandate as chairman by standing for re-election at the FFA AGM this September.

"There's still much work to do," he said. "I have the energy and determination for the task and I will be 100 per cent committed. I'll be asking for your support."

FFA CEO Ben Buckley said the meeting reflected the clarity of purpose flowing from the historic National Charter signed last October.

"The game has never been more unified in terms of the working relationship between the national body and the Member Federations."

THE NEW BREED

We speak with the indomitable Luke Wilkshire about the new breed of Qantas Socceroos coming through the ranks WORDS Aidan Ormond

Kruse made an impact in Qatar

RIGHT Valeri standing tall

NOT SO LONG AGO there was much talk about the regeneration of the national team. The biggest issue was how that would take place? Should there be a rush to blood new, young players? Were many of them ready for the step up? And were they better than who was playing already?

What has transpired over the last year has been a natural process, one more evolutionary than revolutionary. And it's working.

Beginning at the AFC Asian Cup in January, we have been reaping the benefits of this more measured renewal.

Squad players in their mid-20s are now pushing the more experienced players for starting positions, while some of the younger faces are starting to earn some playing time too.

The Australian shirt continues to be a prized possession, one that is still earned and not just handed out because the coaching staff feel the need to make changes for change's sake.

The new generation of Qantas Socceroos stars have proven they are up to the task and are capable of leading the team of the future.

"There was a time back a year or two ago when people were starting to question or wonder who was going to come through," recalls Luke Wilkshire, the Qantas Socceroos' attack-minded full-back. "Are there players to come through? I think we're starting to see that now. The younger players are starting to perform for their country. They're playing club football in Europe or Asia and doing well there too."

The likes of Mile Jedinak, Carl Valeri, Neil Kilkenny and Robbie Kruse form part of a new breed who are becoming increasingly important as Qantas Socceroo coach Holger Osieck seeks to balance squad rejuvenation with the challenge of crucial FIFA World Cup qualifiers through the AFC.

Australia's AFC Asian Cup 2011 campaign marked the start of the regenerative process for the Socceroos, with Osieck happy to give relatively inexperienced - and in some cases, untested - players a chance in a big tournament. The result was an energised, rejuvenated Socceroos who reached their first major final, losing to a talented Japanese side 1-0.

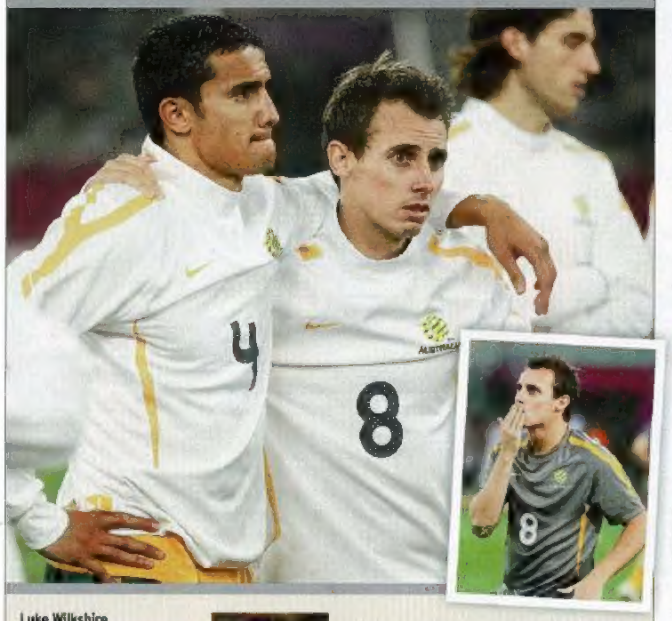
Each of the players brings something different to the pitch. Carl Valeri seems to have been around forever, yet he's only 26. Since debuting in 2007 away to China, the Italian-based Qantas Socceroo has racked up 35 appearances for the national team.

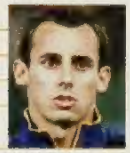
Crucially the Canberra-born midfielder is now considered a starting XI player in the green and gold after strong performances in Qatar and in South Africa last year.

Alongside him in the engine-room is Mile Jedinak. Another 26 year-old, he was outstanding in the AFC Asian Cup, further cementing his position in the national team following his first FIFA World Cup last year.

Wilkshire stays cool from the spot

LUKE Wilkshire





Luke Wilkshire

Age 29
Club Dynamo Moscow
Position Right-back/Midfielder
National honours U-20, U-23
Former clubs Middlesbrough, Bristol City, FC Twente

Leadership. It's been a by-word for Qantas Socceroo excellence over the last two World Cup campaigns. In recent times, both Mark Viduka and Lucas Neill have showed the value of strong leaders at big tournaments. Looking back further, Kevin Muscat, Craig Moore, Paul Wade, John Kosmina and legendary 1970s skipper Peter Wilson have also led by example.

And it's a quality Wilkshire has in spades since the Russian-based Qantas Socceroo burst onto the national scene in Germany five years ago.

With his trademark big heart, boundless energy and ability to get forward as well as defend, the former Middlesbrough, Bristol City and FC Twente man is every inch a leader, as well as a team man.

He's respected and leads by example, and on top of that, he's an individual with his feet firmly on the ground - just like many Qantas Socceroo captains of the past.

"When I was a young player coming through, there were a lot of leaders in the national team: Poppa [Tony Popovic], Musky [Kevin Muscat], Moorey [Craig Moore], Tony Vidmar and Schwarzy as well.

"You see this situation in many teams - the older guys have to step up and bring these younger guys into the team to help make them perform.

"That's part of the role of the senior players. It's not just about your play but your attitude and the way you approach things and help others coming through."

Wilkshire's move from the Dutch Eredivisie in 2008 to Russian outfit Dynamo Moscow has been a success and he continues to be a regular at right-back for the Qantas Socceroos. He can even play as a holding midfielder when need be.

"I never say I'm satisfied," he adds. "I'm always looking to improve and to go forward. It's no different now... perhaps even more so.

"I've got a lot of hunger and desire to do something and win something. Football's a funny game, you never know what's around the corner."

Kilkenny, 25, trained with the main Qantas Socceroo squad for the 2006 FIFA World Cup after having debuted against Liechtenstein in a pre-World Cup friendly. He's made seven appearances to date for the green and gold - mostly in this last 12 months - with his form for English club Leeds United catching the eye of Osieck.

And Kruse - bound for Bundesliga side Fortuna Düsseldorf after the two friendlies against New Zealand and Serbia - is very much the new kid on the block having received his debut call-up for the AFC Asian Cup following a blistering season with Melbourne Victory in the Hyundai A-League.

In the case of Wilkshire, he's part of both the past and the future. After impressing with the Olyroos in 2004, he made his full debut in 2005 and since 2006, he's been first choice as the Qantas Socceroos' attacking right-back.

> "It's an opportunity for the young players to step up"

"A few people are missing and it's not often you'll have that, so in that sense it's a real opportunity for the young boys to really step up and stake their claim," says Wilkshire.

"A green and gold jersey has to be earned and it's been like that for a long time now. It's an opportunity and you have to take these chances because they don't come around very often. These boys are really trying to make a name for themselves at international level.

"We've got some very important games in World Cup qualification later in the year. So playing back home in Australia, it's a chance to show what they've been doing and what they've got and really stake a claim to be in the squad for World Cup qualifiers."

Names such as Tim Cahill, Lucas Neill, Mark Schwarzer, Brett Emerton and Harry Kewell have rock star status to green and gold fans. And rightly so.

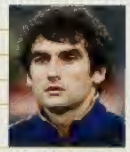
It's been a generation that will go down in history as one of the greatest-ever to wear the shirt.

But with Wilkshire, Valeri, Jedinak, Kilkenny and Kruse, a new breed is emerging outside of these household names and, like them, they have a winning mentality and powerful passion for the green and gold tradition.

As the Qantas Socceroos head into their June friendlies with New Zealand then Serbia, the future is looking bright. ■

NEW BREED Mile Jedinak

The one-time Mariner has taken his chance in the Aussie midfield since debuting three years ago



Mile Jedinak

Age 26
Club Gençlerbirliği
Position Midfielder
National honours U-20
Former clubs Sydney United, CC Mariners, Antalyaspor

From a very wet and sweaty Singapore National Stadium to the pristine pitches of downtown Doha, Mile Jedinak has come a long way in the green and gold over the last three years.

His rise culminated in a breakthrough performance in Qatar last January at the AFC Asian Cup 2011. Two vital goals - his first for the Qantas Socceroos, against Korea Republic and Bahrain - were complemented by a confident and typically hard-running, hard-tackling show in the central third.

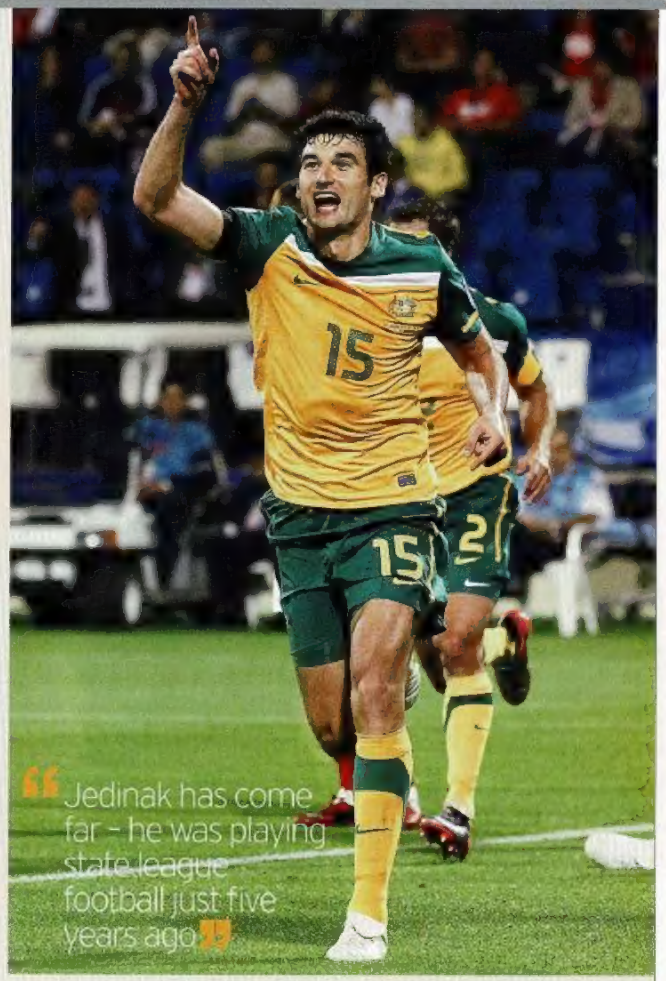
The Turkish-based midfielder worked his socks off, providing cover for the central defenders while still breaking forward and providing support for the forward two. It was a true box-to-box showing for the Sydney-born player who is currently with Ankara-based Genclerbirligi in the Turkish Süper Lig. After his 2008 debut against Singapore, 'Jedi' has enjoyed a steady rise to the top. He's now the proud owner of 24 Qantas Socceroo caps and, at 26, he could be there busting a gut in that engine-room for many more years to come.

Wilkshire, a player who himself values commitment and hard work for the team, has been impressed by what he's seen so far from the tall, physical Jedinak.

"He's really claimed his place now in the team and that especially came to the fore in the Asian Cup," says Wilkshire. "I think he's now an important player. He's got a lot of ability on the ball, he's very strong and he has that presence in the midfield."

However the Qantas Socceroo right-back was cautious not to go too overboard in his praise of his team-mate, stressing the importance of not standing still and resting on your laurels. "There's more for him to give. He's got better times to come ahead."

What is incredible is just how far Jedinak has come in such a short time. It wasn't too long ago that Jedinak was playing part-time football in the NSW Premier League. That was before the wily Scot Lawrie McKinna scouted him for his Hyundai A-League club Central Coast Mariners in 2006, following Jedinak's eye-catching displays in Sydney United's title-winning season.



> "Jedinak has come far - he was playing state league football just five years ago"

After a series of short-term stints in the side, Jedinak soon became an invaluable member of the Gosford-based club's midfield, leading to interest overseas. Sure enough, Gençlerbirligi came knocking and in January 2009 he took the chance to further his career.

Judging by his performances since in the green and gold, it's been a wise move. He is now as close as he's ever been to a regular starting XI berth in Holger Osieck's midfield.

And his two goals in Qatar have added that extra layer to his prodigious output.

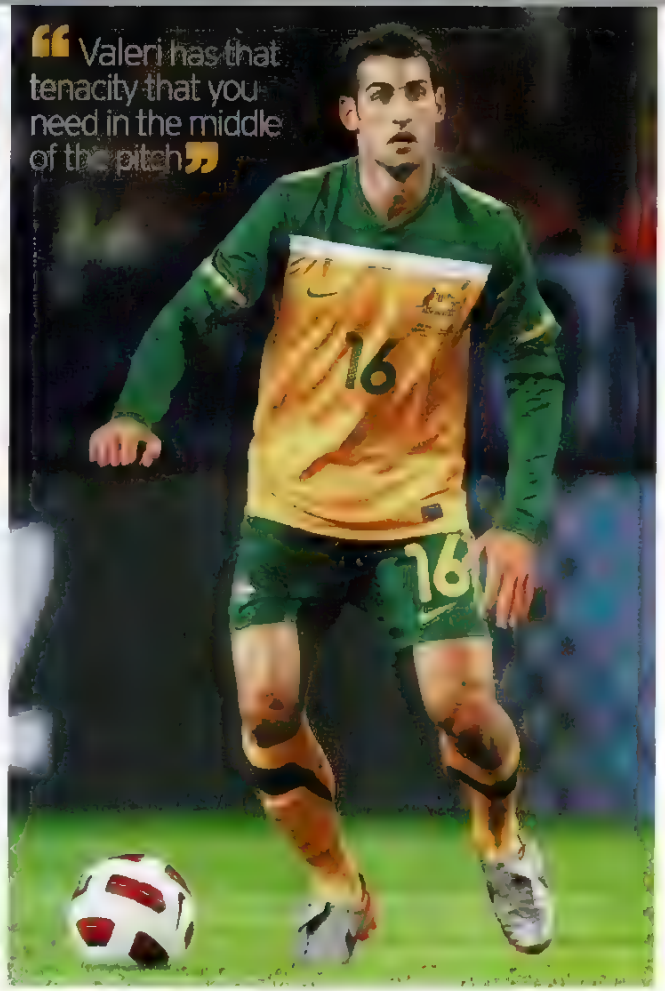
"He can strike a ball and he's got that presence in the air in the box as we saw in Qatar," adds Wilkshire. "So there's no reason he won't be able to pick up a few more goals along the way."

NEW BREED Carl Valeri

The Canberra-born midfield destroyer is right at home playing in the technical leagues of Italy

Carl Valeri

Age: 26
Club: Sassuolo
Position: Midfielder
National team honours: U-17, U-20, U-23
Former clubs: Inter Milan, SPAL, Grosseto



Carl Valeri is a success story that's been years in the making. After playing for Australia at all levels, including the 2001 FIFA U-17 World Cup and 2004 Athens Olympics, the likable Canberran has spent most of the last decade in the highly technical leagues of Italy before finally debuting for the national team in 2007.

Now, over the last 12 months, all the hard work and patience has paid off handsomely for Valeri and the Qantas Socceroos.

With Jason Culina's untimely injury and Vince Grella not playing in the green and gold since the 2010 FIFA World Cup, the Serie B player from Sassuolo has effortlessly moved up from being a talented squad player to a starting XI Qantas Socceroo.

This didn't just happen overnight – it's been coming for some time for the 26 year-old defensive midfielder

His father is a well-known, ex-national league player Walter Valeri and being from Canberra puts him in a small but classy group of players, such as former Qantas Socceroo Ned Zelic.

After representing Australia at all levels as a youngster, Valeri was long touted as a future star in the national team

And now that prediction is starting to come true. A 2010 FIFA World Cup was backed up by an eye-catching performance in the central corridors of midfield at the AFC Asian Cup 2011 last January in Qatar.

"He's the same as Mile [Jedinak], he's bided his time," says Wilkshire, clearly impressed. "He's had to wait for his opportunity and now he's playing well and taking it.

"He's got that mould slightly similar to the way Vinnie [Grella] plays. He has that tenacity in the middle of the pitch and is great at breaking up play. It's an important job for the Socceroos."

At age 26, he's at an ideal age to power the Qantas Socceroo engine – not too old and not too young.

At club level, Valeri has played all his professional football in Italy, after he was signed by Inter Milan straight from the Australian Institute of Sport following the 2001 FIFA U-17 World Cup.

After several seasons in their youth and reserve teams, he was loaned out to SPAL and Grosseto in the Italian lower divisions, which served him well as he continues his club career in the highly-rated Serie B.

Furthermore the confidence of regular game-time under Holger Osieck is helping too.

"He's another young player who like Mile still has better times to come," adds Wilkshire.

"He's still got it all in front of him but definitely you can see him coming of age the way he's playing and the belief he now has.

"No doubt in the modern game you need to be able to get about the pitch and these players [like Valeri] have that. It's crucial, particularly in midfield."

Starts 1/06/11 – Ends 8/08/11
Major prize must be claimed by 5:00pm 18/08/11
Major prize must be taken on specified dates (Aug/Sept 2011)

Major prize entry: Buy a specially marked product for your unique code. Use code to enter at www.beatbear.com.au. **Minor prize entry:** Use code to vote for your favourite Challenge. **10 major prizes:** 1 per week (2 day trip for 2 people to Sydney on dates (in Aug/Sept 11) specified by Promoter). Judging: by 9:00am Friday (1/06/11 – 12/08/11 inc). Major prize pool: up to $120,000 inc GST. **50 minor prizes:** draws conducted Mon-Fri 00:00am (2/06/11 - 10/08/11 inc). Each vote with code = 1 entry in minor prize draw for 24 hr period (00:00am – 23.59pm). Sat/Sun entries in Mon draw. Minor prize pool: $25,000. Multiple entries allowed (1 per code). Voting doesn't require code, entry to minor draws requires code. All judging/draws: c/- 51 Clarendon St Milsons Point NSW. Winners published: The Australian. Major prizes: Wk 1- 3: 27/06/11 Wk 4 – 6: 18/07/11 Wk 7 – 9: 8/08/11, Wk 10: 16/08/11. Minor prizes: 2/06/11 - 21/06/11 27/06/11 - 12/07/11 13/07/11 - 19/07/11 20/07/11 - 26/07/11 27/07/11 - 2/08/11 3/08/11 - 9/08/11 10/08/11 - 16/08/11. **Full T&Cs:** www.beatbear.com.au. Promoter: Schweppes Australia Pty Ltd (ABN 51 004 243 994) L5 111 Cecil Street, South Melbourne, Victoria 3205. **HELPLINE: 1800 244 054.** Authorised under NSW Permit No. ...TPS/11/01874. Vic Permit No. 11/4475. ACT Permit No. TP 11/00667 2. SA Licence No. T11/6105. SOLO AND SOLO DEVICE ARE TRADE MARKS USED UNDER LICENCE IN AUSTRALIA BY SCHWEPPES AUSTRALIA PTY LTD

NEW BREED Neil Kilkenny

The tough and mobile Leeds United midfielder has shown he has a big future for the green and gold

Neil Kilkenny

Age: 25
Club: Leeds United
Position: Midfielder
National team: U-23
Former clubs: Birmingham, Oldham

There's something very likable about Neil Kilkenny. He may not be the tallest player around but he's as tough and as hard-working as they come.

And, after a grounding in the Arsenal youth team, he has that dash of technical ability that sets him apart and a mental toughness that's bred into players who grow up playing football in Britain.

At just 25, the former Qantas Olyroo gives the Qantas Socceroos another option in midfield both now and in the future. How good can he be? He can be as good as he wants to be, says Wilkshire.

"How far he can go will be determined by himself," says Wilkshire. "But he's got ability, is great on the ball and technically very good. He's got a great mind for football; he's got a football brain.

"And he's got that aura of confidence about him on the pitch. He's not afraid to take the ball and create the play."

Kilkenny, born in England, moved to Australia at a young age where he grew up in Brisbane. He showed promise and was handed the Queensland schoolboys captain's armband, but at the age of 11 he and his family moved back to England to maximise his chances of a career in football.

After a spell with Arsenal's youth team as an apprentice, he joined Birmingham City in 2004 then later Oldham Athletic on loan, but he now seems to have found his place with a club that knows Qantas Socceroos very well; Leeds United.

At the former club of Kewell, Viduka, Burns and Okon, Kilkenny has flourished after being signed in January 2008. This season, he's helped the Elland Road side to rejuvenate their stocks in the English Championship, making 31 appearances for United in league and cup.

There have been reports that Kilkenny might leave Elland Road in the European summer despite the player professing his desire to stay. However, if it's true, there would be no shortage of suitors. At 25 and just moving into the fringes of the national team, he will surely attract attention.

He's shown over the years in cup games against Premier League opposition, he wouldn't be out of place in the biggest league in England.

However, now 'Killa' has been given a chance by Osieck he clearly sees him as part of a new breed of midfielder with both youth and experience on his side.

Kilkenny appeared against Bahrain, Iraq and Japan at the AFC Asian Cup this year and was part of pre-tournament friendly against UAE.

You get the feeling we'll see a lot more of this skilled technician with a hard edge over the next couple of FIFA World Cup campaigns.

NEW BREED Robbie Kruse

Wilkshire says Kruse gives the Qantas Socceroos 'something different'. We couldn't agree more

Robbie Kruse

Age: 22
Club: Fortuna Düsseldorf
Position: Winger/Striker
National team: U-17, U-20
Former clubs: Brisbane Roar, Melbourne Victory

"He's come on, he's raw, he's fresh, he's got pace to burn and is dangerously threatening and I guess he's something different for us," says Wilkshire, when quizzed about the new face on the green and gold block, Robbie Kruse.

But he also has some good advice for the lightning-quick striker who is starting out on his international and European club career after some exciting seasons in the Hyundai A-League.

"He's done well to step up, but you can get young players to come in and do that for one or two games without getting the consistency over time. And that goes for club football too, not just at international level.

"To play at that level in Germany is another step in his career, so it's about starting from scratch in Europe. You've got to build your name and build your reputation."

Kruse heads off to Fortuna in Germany after the two home friendlies, making them somewhat of a farewell for the former Brisbane Roar flyer, who has shone in recent times for Melbourne Victory.

Just as Kruse is setting out on his career in Europe, the early days for Wilkshire at Middlesbrough were about establishing your brand as a player.

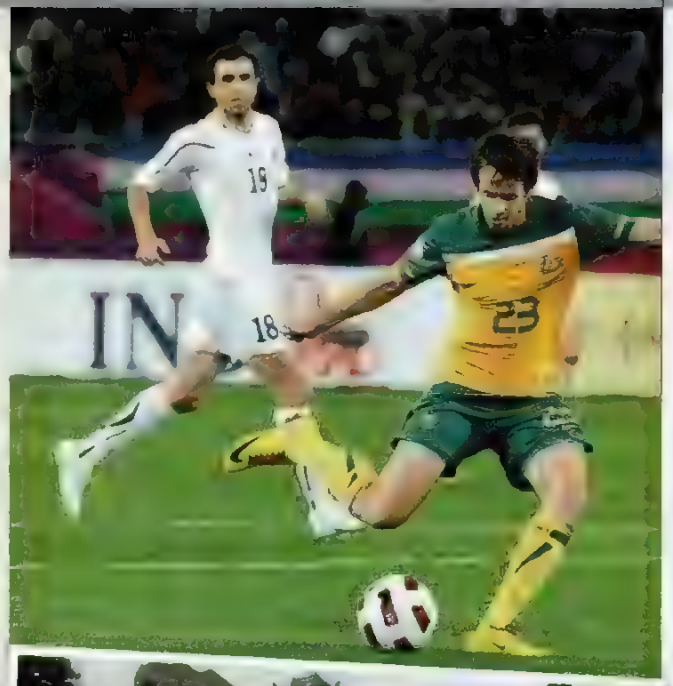
"And to get your team-mates to believe in you and your coach to believe in you," stresses Wilkshire, who knows a bit about leaving for foreign shores early in a career. "That's the biggest challenge. It's not easy, it's hard yards and you've got to earn that respect and earn that backing from your coach and the players you play with.

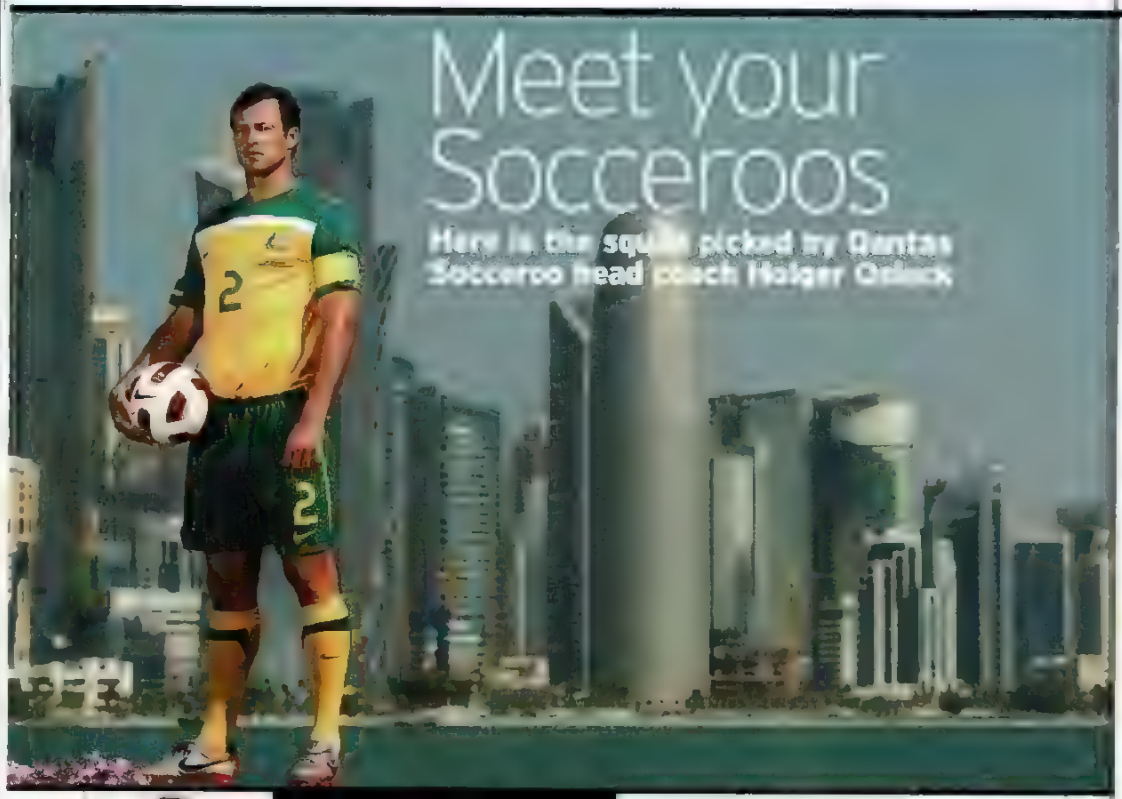
"Everybody is fighting for a living and fighting for a spot and they'll be no different. But you've got to be up for that challenge and be prepared for knockbacks, disappointments and hard times.

"But it's how you deal with them that makes you who you are. He's [Kruse] got this challenge in front of him both for club and country and he's going to have to be mentally strong and really have that self belief," adds Wilkshire.

"But he's got the ability and there's nothing really stopping him when he wants it and has that desire."

Kruse was also said to be the fastest player at training in the Qantas Socceroo camp during the AFC Asian Cup. Wilkshire confirmed Kruse's lightning-quick pace, but joked, "Yes, he was the quickest at training. . behind me!"





Meet your Socceroos

Here is the squad picked by Qantas Socceroo head coach Holger Osieck

Holger **Osieck**

Age 53
Position Head Coach

Appointed in 2010 the German-born coach enjoyed instant success taking Australia to the AFC Asian Cup 2011 final.

Robbie **Hooker**

Age 44
Position Coach

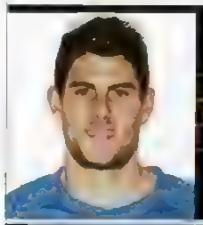
Capped 22 times for the Qantas Socceroos he worked with the Westfield Matildas before joining Osieck's coaching team in 2010.

FOOTBALL FEDERATION AUSTRALIA STAFF

Phil Wolanski Head of Delegation
Han Berger Technical Director
Holger Osieck Head Coach
Gary Moretti Team Manager
Robbie Hooker Coach
Tony Franken Goalkeeping Coach
Ron Smith Analyst
Dr Mark Jones Team Doctor
Les Gelis Senior Physiotherapist
Kurt Lisle Physiotherapist
Luke Attwell Masseur
Dom Rafisch Equipment Manager
Adam Mark Media Manager
Mark Saliba Security

AUSTRALIA

Goalkeepers

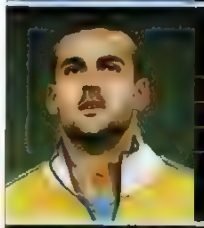


Nathan **Coe**

Age 27
Position Goalkeeper
Club Sonderjysk Elitesport (Denmark)
Appearances 1

Coe is finally getting the chance to show how good he is after almost a decade in Europe and Scandinavia.

Coe debuted in January this year when Australia played United Arab Emirates in a pre-AFC Asian Cup friendly in the Middle East. The Brisbane born shot-stopper was always a tal ented keeper within our national youth team system and this sparked his move to Inter Milan in 2002 followed by a three year stint at PSV. Since then he's been based in Copenhagen. Coe turns 27 just days before June's two friendlies.

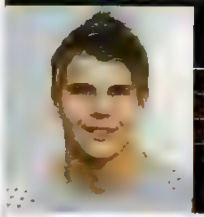


Adam **Federici**

Age 28
Position Goalkeeper
Club Reading (England)
Appearances 3

Federici is coming off a stellar year at the Royals and he is set to bring that form into the national team.

And with Mark Schwarzer not named in this squad, the popular keeper from the south coast of NSW gets his chance to show what he can do. "Fedders" made his full Qantas Socceroo [redacted] because of the amazing form of the Qantas Socceroo [redacted] years in really establish his name in the green and gold.



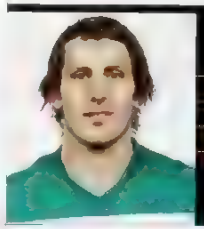
Mitchell **Langerak**

Age 22
Position Goalkeeper
Club Borussia Dortmund (Germany)
Appearances -

The future is very bright for the Qantas Socceroo keeping ranks after Langerak's first season in Europe.

The tall and powerful former Melbourne Victory shot-stopper, [redacted] formance last February to help his new club to a 3-1 away win over Bayern Munich. At 22 expect to see the name Langerak feature for many years to come judging by this season.

Defenders



Jonathan **McKain**

Age 28
Position Defender
Club Al-Nassr (Saudi Arabia)
Appearances 14

McKain continues to develop well in one of the toughest leagues in the AFC - Saudi Arabia.

This is part of a growing trend with a number of Qantas Socceroos playing their trade across our confederation. For McKain he's one of the most reliable defenders we have who quietly goes about his business. The former National Bucar esti and Wellington Phoenix defender combines power with good timing and great vision. And at 28 he is coming into the best years of his career.

Sasa Ognenovski

Age 32
Position Defender
Club Seongnam Ilhwa Chunma (Korea Republic)
Appearances 8

Ognenovski is one of the great Qantas Socceroo stories and has fitted perfectly into our defensive unit.

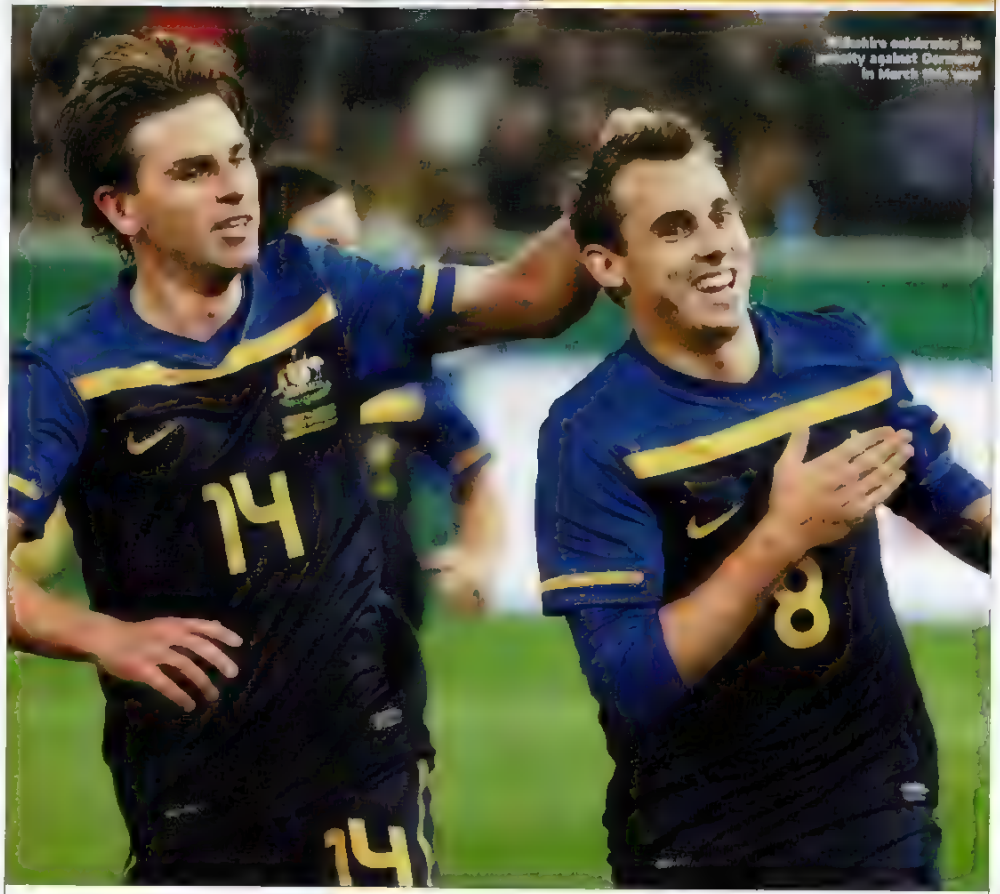
His career has gone from strength to strength beginning with part time football in the VPL till 2006 before moving into the Hyundai A League and then being signed by his K-League club. There, he won the prestigious armband and captained the side and scored in the AFC Champions League final last year. What a rise for this powerful defender who got his first call up late last year. He hasn't looked back since.

Rhys Williams

Age 22
Position Defender
Club Middlesbrough (England)
Appearances 3

We welcome back a favourite to the Qantas Socceroo fold after a horrendous year with injury.

A year ago William's was set for his first ever FIFA World Cup but a persistent groin problem robbed him of his dream. He only just recently resumed his club career. What we saw of him after debuting in 2009, was a composed right sided defender who brings a new dimension to the green and gold defence. He can play central too and can get forward using an impressive range of ball skills. His return is a huge plus.



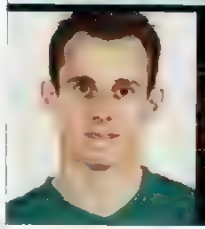
Wilkshire celebrates his penalty against Germany in March this year

Matthew Spiranovic

Age 22
Position Defender
Club Urawa Red Diamonds (Japan)
Appearances 5

Spiranovic is your classic ball-playing central defender and is a star in waiting for the Qantas Socceroos

Spiranovic played youth football in Geelong before turning out for Melbourne Victory in a World Club Championship qualifier aged just 16. In 2006 Spiranovic joined FC Nuremberg where he remained for the next few years playing several matches a season before moving to one of the biggest Japanese clubs Urawa Reds last year. It's the same club for whom Holger Osieck coached to an AFC Champions League



Luke Wilkshire

Age 29
Position Defender
Club Dinamo Moscow (Russia)
Appearances 56

Wilkshire has become one of the first players on Holger Osieck's team-sheet.

And for good reason. He's everything you want from a player - works hard, can attack and defend and has a big heart. The Wollongong born 'Wilko' began his Euro career in England with Middlesbrough and Bristol before a spell in Holland with FC Twente. He made a move to Dinamo Moscow in 2008 and has featured regularly in that side ever since. A highly respected club and national team player.

Michael Zullo

Age 22
Position Defender
Club FC Utrecht (Holland)
Appearances 2

Another Hyundai A-League product who is making his way in European football.

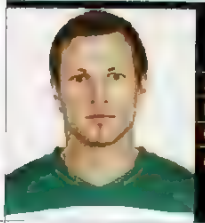
Along with Robbie Kruse the pair ripped it up at Roar in recent years. This alerted European scouts and Zullo made his way to Holland to a club that also featured two other Aussie players - Adam Sarota and Tommy Oar. With David Carney unavailable through injury Zullo - a converted left winger - may get a chance at left back, the position he's been playing with his Dutch Eredivisie club.

Mark Milligan

Age 25
Position Defender
Club JEF United (Japan)
Appearances 10

The former Qantas Olyroos captain has slotted easily into J-League football with JEF United.

Milligan first burst onto the scene with Northern Spirit but did enough in the first season of the Hyundai A-League with Sydney FC to be noticed by the national team. Milligan has a no nonsense approach and a natural competitiveness and has been known to play a variety of roles as a defender and midfielder. Japan is his second AFC league after a spell with Shanghai Shenhua in 2009.



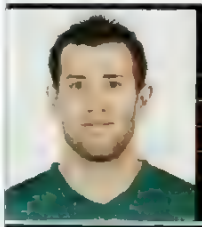
Lucas Neill

Age 33
Position Defender
Club Galatasaray (Turkey)
Appearances 70

One of Australia's most recognisable stars, Neill seems to grow in stature every time he plays for his country.

Neill made his Qantas Socceroos debut in 1996 and he has really established himself as our defensive linchpin and leader. His performances at the AFC Asian Cup 2011 and against Germany in March proof that he's still at the top of his game. A star in the English Premier League at West Ham and Blackburn he's transferred his form to Turkey in recent years to great success. Quite simply, he's an inspiration and a fine defender.

Midfielders



Brett Emerton

Age 32
Position Midfielder
Club Blackburn Rovers (England)
Appearances 83

Emerton is closing in on 100 caps for the Qantas Socceroos in what's been a fantastic career with Australia.

'Emo' can be relied on to do the job and continues to have [illegible] from scoring against Manchester United on the day the Red Devils confirmed their title, he shows no signing of slowing down proving himself to be one of the greatest ever athletes we've produced in the national team. He debuted in the green and gold in 1998 and has been at Rovers since 2003.

Brett Holman

Age 29
Position Midfielder
Club AZ Alkmaar (Holland)
Appearances 45

A sensational last 12 months has taken Holman's green and gold career to another level of greatness.

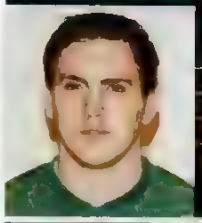
[illegible] opment system. He debuted in the green and gold in 2006.

Mile Jedinak

Age 26
Position Midfielder
Club Genclerbirligi (Turkey)
Appearances 24

Jedinak's AFC Asian Cup earlier this year was a breakthrough tournament for the power midfielder.

[illegible] plays. He added to those performances in Qatar with a brace of goals at crucial times adding another important layer to his game. The former Mariner in the Hyundai A-League has been in Europe now for two and a half years and clearly he's benefitting from his career in the Turkish league.

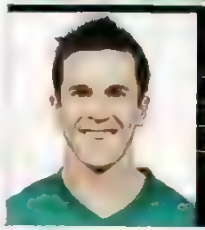


Neil Kilkenny

Age 25
Position Midfielder
Club Leeds United (England)
Appearances 7

Kilkenny is winning more and more fans as he builds his career in England after three years with Leeds United.

Although born in England, Kilkenny spent time in Brisbane as a child and after debuting in 2006 for the Qantas Socceroos is now in a good position to really cement his place in the side after being picked in the AFC Asian Cup 2011 squad. Kilkenny combines a real tenacity and work-rate in the mid field with an excellent technical ability after he was schooled the Arsenal way before joining Birmingham City in 2004.



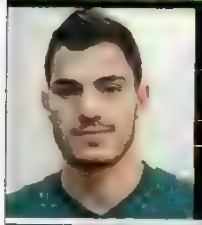
Matthew McKay

Age 23
Position Midfielder
Club Brisbane Roar (Australia)
Appearances 13

One of the feel-good stories of Australia's AFC Asian Cup campaign, McKay has blossomed under Osieck.

The Brisbane Roar captain slotted into the national team [illegible] prime movers behind Roar's standout season on the domestic front with his prodigious work-rate and excellent link-play and passing. Green and gold debut was in 2006.

The indefatigable Brett Emerton earlier this [illegible] against Uzbekistan



James **Troisi**

Age 22
Position Midfielder
Club Kayserispor Kulubu (Turkey)
Appearances 3

An Adelaide product has had an much-travelled career - from Adelaide to England's Newcastle and now Turkey.

Another player for the future, Troisi has been overseas for the last six years. He began after being spotted by the Geordie club. There he played in the reserves and was on the fringes of first team football before a move to Turkey came up. He's plied his trade at Genclerbirligi before catching the eye of Kayserispor after banging in a hat-trick against them. He's quick, skilful and very exciting

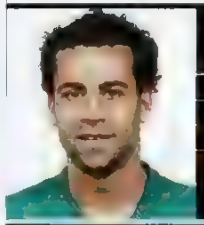
Carl **Valeri**

Age 26
Position Midfielder
Club US Sassuolo Calcio (Italy)
Appearances 36

Canberra-raised Valeri has refined his game in Italy and is delivering big-time in the Qantas Socceroo midfield.

The defensive midfielder has represented Australia at all levels and made his debut for the Qantas Socceroos in March 2007 against China. Carl has played all his professional football in Italy, after he was signed by Inter Milan, who have loaned him out to lower-level clubs to gain experience. Valeri is now pretty much a regular after starring at the AFC Asian Cup 2011 in Qatar earlier this year.

Strikers

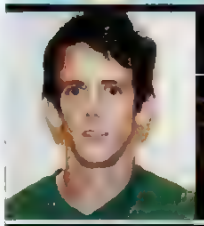


Alex **Brosque**

Age 27
Position Striker
Club Shimizu Pulse (Japan)
Appearances 5

In the middle of his first J-League season Brosque has hit a goal-scoring hot-streak at Shimizu.

It's this form and Brosque's versatility - he can lead the line and play in behind in a 4-3-3 -that makes him so important a player. Brosque was a star in the Hyundai A-League with Sydney FC and Roar though this is not his first spell overseas after a stint in Holland and Belgium early in his career. At 27 he's at his peak and playing in the highly technical and pacy J-League can only boost his green and gold career



Robbie **Kruse**

Age 22
Position Striker
Club Melbourne Victory (Australia)
Appearances 4

This year has been Kruse's after the lightning quick striker was named in the AFC Asian Cup squad.

[illegible] he has inked a deal with German club Fortuna Dusseldorf and heads overseas for his first Euro pre-season immediately after these two games against New Zealand and Serbia. Kruse debuted for Australia against UAE at the start of the year.

Josh **Kennedy**

Age 28
Position Striker
Club Nagoya Grampus (Japan)
Appearances 23

Kennedy continues to be one of the most dangerous strikers in the J-League at powerhouse Nagoya.

Coached by Serbian former playing great Dragan Stojkovic, the tall central forward has made a splash in the J-League since joining in 2009 following almost seven years in the German leagues. Kennedy also made a splash with national team at the 2006 FIFA World Cup, making his debut in a pre-tournament friendly before coming on as a sub against Japan to help bamboozle the Blue Samurai in that famous 3-1 win.

Archie **Thompson**

Age 32
Position Striker
Club Melbourne Victory (Australia)
Appearances 33

It's fantastic to have Thompson back - one of our most bubbly of characters and dangerous players.

After a good 2011 AFC Champions League this has convinced Osieck that the pacy striker is ready to return in this his first appearance under our German born coach. He last played for the national team in Canberra last year and with injuries hopefully a thing of the past, the New Zealand born striker is set to turn it on in Adelaide and in his hometown of Melbourne. He has 21 goals for Australia.

Dario **Vidosic**

Age 24
Position Striker
Club DSC Arminia Bielefeld (Germany)
Appearances 12

The former Roar attacker scored his first ever goal for the green and gold last year. The first of many we hope.

That strike was against New Zealand at the MCG and the [illegible] on the ball - attributes which have been enhanced since his move from Brisbane to Germany's FC Nuremberg and now Arminia Bielefeld. He grew up in Queensland and is the son of Brisbane Roar assistant coach Rado Vidosic.

2010

Holman sinks Kiwis with last gasp goal in farewell clash

Aidan Ormond recalls Brett Holman's wonder-strike against New Zealand at the MCG

This fabulously crafted strike marked the beginning of a marvellous month for Qantas Socceroo Brett Holman. The attacking midfielder's clever last-gasp strike against the Kiwis handed the green and gold a hard-earned 2-1 win in front of more than 55,000 rain-soaked fans at the MCG.

As Ricki Herbert's men were to prove at the 2010 FIFA World Cup, this was a gritty New Zealand outfit and there was little surprise they gave the Qantas Socceroos a tough workout. Earlier All-White striker Chris Killen powered the visitors into the lead with a first-half strike before Dario Vidosic's first goal for the national team levelled the ledger.

The friendly, Australia's last on home soil before heading to South Africa for the 2010 FIFA World Cup, looked to be heading for a draw but in time added on, Holman started and finished the decisive play of the game.

After a neat interchange of passes in front of the Kiwi penalty box, Holman laid a short ball off to midfielder Mile Jedinak. Facing the All-Whites goal and with the Kiwi defenders allowing him time to measure his pass, the Turkish-based midfielder saw the killer pass and expertly chipped an angled ball over the top of the defensive line.

It fell perfectly into the path of an on-rushing Holman, who stretched to meet the perfectly weighted pass just before keeper Mark Paston, before slotting home a brilliant and timely winner.

Holman wheeled away in delight mobbed by green and gold shirts; referee Ricardo Salazar blew his final whistle just moments later as the Kiwis slumped to the ground. It was a fantastic way for Australia to say goodbye to their home fans, full of confidence after getting one over on the old enemy from across the Tasman.

And as we now know, this brilliant effort started a goal scoring streak Holman would add to in South Africa in spectacular fashion. ■

AUSTRALIA v NEW ZEALAND

Fill in numbers as line-ups are announced

GOALKEEPERS

- Nathan **Coe**
- Adam **Federici**
-

DEFENDERS

-
-
-
- Luke **Wilkshire**
- Rhys **Williams**
- Jonathan **McKain**
- Sasa **Ognenovski**
- Michael **Zullo**

MIDFIELDERS

-
-
- Brett **Holman**
- Mile **Jedinak**
- Carl **Valeri**
- Neil **Kilkenny**
- Brett **Emerton**

FORWARDS

-
-
- Robbie **Kruse**
- Dario **Vidosic**

GOALSCORERS

GOALKEEPERS

- Jake G
-
-

FORWARDS

-
-
-
-
-

MIDFIELDERS

-
-
-
-
-
-

DEFENDERS

- Andrew Boyer
-
-
-
-
-
-
-

GOALSCORERS

NEW ZEALAND

EVERYTHING'S ALL WHITE

After a successful FIFA 2010 World Cup and new-found financial stability, New Zealand football is on the rise WORDS Aidan Ormond

THERE'S BEEN A REVOLUTION IN NEW ZEALAND. It's been a while coming but it's started and it's showing no sign of slowing down. It began on the park with the national team - the All-Whites - and now off it, big plans are in place to ensure the country becomes a force to be reckoned with in this part of the world.

This revolution started about 18 months ago when the All-Whites qualified for the FIFA World Cup in a dramatic playoff. Then, once in South Africa, they became one of the feel-good stories of the tournament. Unbeaten in a group that featured reigning FIFA world champions Italy was impressive enough but it was the manner in which they achieved their results - never parking the bus, as the Special One would say - that won New Zealand so many admirers.

They weren't there to make up the numbers as the All-Whites could've - and perhaps should've - qualified through the group. Their campaign garnered all sorts of plaudits on both sides of the Tasman as one of the country's greatest ever sporting performances.

The scenes in the Kiwi dressing room after their final game against Paraguay told the story of how much the players believed qualifying to the knockout stage was their destiny. They were devastated.

The entire South African adventure came off the back of a thrilling two-legged qualifier against Bahrain in the inter-continental play-off between OFC (Oceania) and AFC's fifth best nation. With shades of our own 'Aloisi Moment', Rory Fallon rose high to score the winner in the second leg to send the fans in Wellington - and the entire 'Land of the Long White Cloud' - into ecstasy.

> "Football's administrators in New Zealand are learning from past mistakes too"

It was the night football truly reintroduced itself to the mainstream public some 28 years after first qualifying for Spain 1982.

This new respect can be seen in some of the All-Whites' opponents since South Africa, including Paraguay, China, Japan, Mexico and now Australia. Although the Japan game was cancelled due to the terrible natural disaster which struck that country, that's a footballing Who's Who with all but China qualifying for the last FIFA World Cup.

It should stand New Zealand in good stead when the difficult task of qualifying for their second consecutive FIFA World Cup gets underway later this year. If it all goes to plan they will successfully negotiate Oceania qualifiers and once again head into a two-legged play-off against the fifth best Asian nation. Last time it was Bahrain. Who will it be this time?

So there's plenty to be excited about over the ditch, particularly when you consider the amount of attacking talent that's now at coach Ricki Herbert's disposal: Shane Smeltz, Chris Killen, Kosta Barbarouses, Rory Fallon and youngsters Marco Rojas, Jeremy Brockie and Chris Wood

The game's administrators are learning from past mistakes too. If there was one criticism of the All-Whites legendary 1982 FIFA World Cup campaign, it was that the game in the country didn't capitalise on the success of that famous side which went to Spain. This time the New Zealand authorities are keen to avoid the same mistake

ALL-WHITES' EXTRAORDINARY FIFA WORLD CUP

They were written off before the 2010 FIFA World Cup. After all, Italy were the reigning FIFA World Cup champions, Paraguay were dangerous and Slovakia were Euro dark horses. Yet it was New Zealand who stole all the headlines. Their first game was against Slovakia in Rustenburg and the Europeans looked to be cruising to a 1-0 victory before Winston Reid famously headed home a stoppage-time equaliser to make it 1-1. It was a moment that's been replayed over and over again and it gave the squad an extra lift for their second game against the Italians.

And what a game that was. Beforehand, coach Herbert promised not to park the bus and sure enough, they took it up to the Italians. The final result 1-1, with Smeltz scoring the all-important goal after just seven minutes. Vincenzo Iaquinta 20 minutes later restored parity but New Zealand had their chances to win it. The Kiwis were the new darlings of the media, while the Azzurri were slated by their own press.

The Kiwi's final game was against Paraguay but a 0-0 draw forced the All-Whites out of the tournament. However the side won many hearts despite not progressing.

tabsportsbet

AUSTRALIAN FOR BETTING

tabsportsbet | YOU'RE ON! | TAB.COM.AU 133 390

Think! About your choices. Call your state based gambling help services on 1800 858 858. Gamble Responsibly

following the 2010's side's stunning run in South Africa.

For starters, New Zealand Football announced an NZ$7.7 million surplus at the sport's annual congress, with the majority of the funds coming off the back of their undefeated performance at the FIFA World Cup. It's been said that sound commercial investments have also helped boost Kiwi

> "This NZ$7.7m surplus has largely been reinvested in the grassroots"

football's bottom line. It is the third year in a row that NZF (New Zealand Football) has posted a profit after four consecutive years running at a loss. What's more, the organisation also repaid a one and a half million dollar loan it had taken out.

This surplus has been largely reinvested in the grassroots of the game with the clear aim of strengthening the future of the code.

KIWI STARS' ROLLCALL

These days the All-Whites are packed with talent, particularly going forward

Rory Fallon
The Gisborne-born, 29-year-old forever etched his name in Kiwi sporting history with his powerfully headed goal that saw off Bahrain in the World Cup qualification play-off. The big Plymouth Argyle target-man (on-loan at Ipswich) was a welcome addition to the national squad after initially playing for England at youth level. He was first called up in 2009 and has added massively to the Kiwi attack. He is also the son of former national coach Kevin Fallon.

Shane Smeltz
The 29-year-old Perth Glory marquee striker forms a deadly front two combination with Fallon. Smeltz has been a goal machine in the Hyundai A-League, and with 17 goals in 33 internationals he's proven he can replicate his club form for the All-Whites. As Herbert - one of Smeltz's mentors - says: "He's come through difficult times and I think I've said it before, he was on the brink of not playing for us some years ago, but he's captured that form and the belief is back."

Ryan Nelsen
A leader in every sense, the Blackburn Rovers hard-man captains his EPL club and has played 44 times for his nation. It was Nelsen's leadership at the back that was key in getting the Kiwis to the FIFA World Cup last year, with his display against Bahrain in the second leg immense. Born in Christchurch, Nelsen debuted for the All-Whites in 1999 against Poland and has a club career that has spanned the US college system before making the big move to England where he's proved a huge success.

Marco Rojas
Exciting talent is an understatement. Rojas burst onto the scene last year in the Hyundai A-League with his tricky wing play and composure in front of goal. Just 18 at the start of last season, he scored twice in 21 outings for Wellington Phoenix under Ricki Herbert before moving to Melbourne Victory this season. So impressed, Herbert handed Rojas his international debut against China last March, playing in the second half. Rojas was also a key man in the Kiwi U-20 side that qualified for the U-20 FIFA World Cup.

Kosta Barbarouses
Over the last three seasons we glimpsed Barbarouses' potential with Phoenix but it really came to the fore once he made the move to Brisbane Roar. The diminutive Wellington-born winger was one of Ange Postecoglou's first signings and was superb as the Roar took it to a new level. The 21 year-old caught the eye with his cool finishing, ending the season with 12 goals from 33 games. Just two All-White appearances to his name before June you sense there'll be a lot more to come in the next four years.

The bulk of the money will be spent on the organisation's six-year plan called 'The Whole of Football' programme, aimed at developing the quality of the game in New Zealand from six-year-olds to senior club sides over this period of time.

Additionally, part of the surplus cash has been put towards Kiwi national sides travelling and gaining added experience ahead of World Cup games.

NZF chairman Frank van Hattum told media last year it is an opportunity they do not want to miss. The current plans will ensure New Zealand football will not suffer another '1982 moment', where mismanagement of funds scuppered the growth of the game in the long-term.

The plan aligns all development programs to provide a unified pathway into the game and deliver a consistent experience to all participants, says NZF. It's not just about players - it also involves the ongoing development of coaches, referees and administrators.

Interestingly, NZF is moving towards a development model that takes some of its cues from Optus small-sided football - a development plan that our own FFA has implemented across Australia and one that is proving very successful.

One club in Auckland, Pukekohe, are set to operate the full Junior Framework as set out in the NZF plan: ASB First Kicks (4-6 year-olds), ASB Fun Football (7-8 year-olds) and ASB Mini Football (9-12 year-olds).

Pukekohe AFC Coaching Development Co-ordinator Ian Davidson says the club saw the new framework as more than just a good way to develop children's football skills.

"We saw it as a great opportunity to put the fun back into kids football," says Davidson. "We believe our kids will improve at a quicker rate and have more fun under this structure than ever before. The opportunities to increase player touches on the ball and have them make more decisions couldn't be ignored.

"The the players are receiving age-appropriate coaching in technique and we also get equality of delivery across all players rather than it being left to chance. We think this is the right way."

The Whole of Football Plan took out an award in the 'Innovation Excellence' category of the New Zealand Sport and Recreation awards recently, although proof of its innovative nature will perhaps only be seen at its conclusion. But the feeling is they are very much on the right track in New Zealand at both grassroots and national team level. In fact, there are striking similarities to what happened in Australia six years ago: a FIFA World Cup qualification for the first time in decades prompting the game to regenerate at pace at both national and grassroots levels.

While Ricki Herbert's men may arrive in Adelaide somewhat fatigued following their Mexico clash in LA, the game of football back home is in very good health these days. And they want to build on that.

A good result today against the Qantas Socceroos would be another confidence builder. So watch out for the Kiwis today and in the future. ■

RICKI HERBERT: 'MR NZ FOOTBALL'

It's a rarity in world football that someone plays for his nation at a FIFA World Cup then, 28 years later, coaches them at the same event. But they are the bookends of the Ricki Herbert story - one of the great names in New Zealand sport, who also manages to coach his nation's Hyundai A-League team Wellington Phoenix.

Not one to rest on his laurels, Herbert is already looking ahead to the next FIFA World Cup campaign with relish.

"Most of the players are available for the 2014 campaign," he says. "Smeltzy, Fallon, Lochhead, Brown, Bertos. All those boys came out of the Olympic Games campaign I had and they'll all go another World Cup.

"Put a Ryan Nelsen in there, he'll go around again, Tommy Smith now coming in from Ipswich, the two keepers Paston and Moss will continue on.

"We won't be any worse; in fact, we'll probably be better. Chris Wood will be another improving on what he's doing and Rory Fallon - he'll probably have 30 games under his belt by that time. It's promising."

Ricki Herbert truly is 'Mr New Zealand Football'. And he's got Brazil in his sights.

> "Most of the All Whites are available for the FIFA 2014 campaign"

Where were you when?

QANTAS SOCCEROO FAN Tommy Silver has golden memories of March in Germany

"I had arranged a ticket via Murray Shaw of Fox , who's a fellow Tottenham fan. I spent the afternoon with him, Andy Harper, Simon Hill and the technicians as we made our way to Mönchengladbach via the autobahn.

We arrived at the ground about two hours before kick-off so I killed time mingling with locals, including a German girl decked head-to-toe in Australia gear. She had fallen in love with Australia when she visited a few years and was an honorary Socceroo fan now. And my new German friend was overcome with excitement at the chance of seeing Harry Kewell, albeit at distance.

My seat was absolutely brilliant, just to the right of the Fox Sports commentary area, right on halfway. With a fair bit of time before kick-off, I decided to get a bit German and bought some bratwurst and bier on what was quickly becoming a very cold night.

Unfortunately, there wasn't much for us to cheer about in the first half, but the roar when Mario Gomez scored for German was pretty impressive. I spent half-time discussing the game with 'Harps'. It was great to hear his thoughts on the match, straight after he had given them to those watching in Australia at 5am.

As we all know, the second half proved to be a much better for us. Two goals in three minutes provided cause to go wild in the stands. We sat through the next 30 minutes on the edge of our seats as the Germans got closer and closer. And Klose!

How he didn't score after Ognenovski slipped I will never know. Initially, it appeared as though the referee had blown for a penalty and there were some Germans around me celebrating. But once the yellow card was produced for simulation, there was a realisation that they might just be about to lose.

The sound of the final whistle was beautiful and the Aussie players looked genuinely happy. It was nice to see such passion from them, even in a friendly. It showed that they were hurting from the 4-0 defeat in South Africa and this went some way towards making amends.

It was amazing to be in Germany to see Australia win and the Fox Sports guys made it all the more special. Genuinely nice guys who made me feel very welcome.

Overall, the trip was so worth it and I returned to London a very proud Aussie."

*Head to http://tommysilver.com.au/me/2011-football-tour/australia-in-germany/ for Tommy's blog ■

GREEN & GOLD RESURGENCE

The Westfield Matildas have this month's FIFA Women's World Cup in their sights, as the reigning AFC Women's Asian Cup champions aim high

WORDS Aidan Ormond PORTRAITS Mark Nolan

Group B at a glance

Drawn with Brazil, the Norwegians and little-known Equatorial Guinea, if the Matildas can get through this group, they'll make the quarter-finals for a second consecutive FIFA Women's World Cup. From that point on, who knows?

MATCHES

[redacted] group game one versus Brazil in Monchengladbach

[redacted] group game two versus Equatorial Guinea in Bochum

[redacted] group game three versus Norway in Leverkusen

THE WESTFIELD MATILDAS stunned many observers a year ago by winning the 2010 AFC Women's Asian Cup and now have another opportunity to add to their silverware haul when they kick-off their campaign for the 2011 FIFA Women's World Cup in Germany this month.

How far our national team have come can be traced back to 2007 at the FIFA Women's World Cup in China, where the Aussie girls' adventure was heartbreakingly ended by Brazil in the quarter-finals.

That campaign signalled the end of an era with many of the team's most experienced stars retiring at the end of the tournament. Many speculated this current four-year cycle would be more of a rebuilding phase. How they were wrong.

Aided by the launch of the Westfield W-League in 2008, an exciting wave of young, technically gifted starlets emerged. Inspired by the heroism of 2007, this younger generation have been knocking on the door of the national team, giving coach Tom Sermanni some genuine selection headaches.

Tick them off: Kyah Simon, [redacted], Caitlin Foord, Servet Uzunlar, Ellyse Perry, Elise Kellond-Knight, Leena Khamis, Emily Van Egmond, Laura Alleway, Tameka Butt, Casey Dumont. They've all emerged and are now pushing the more experienced core for green and gold starting spots.

In fact, the victorious 2010 AFC Women's Asian Cup final side etched

NOW SELLING ONLINE
AT WESTFIELD.COM.AU
SEARCH, COMPARE AND BUY
OVER 250,000 PRODUCTS & 2,000 BRANDS
WITH ONE SIMPLE CHECKOUT
SHOP ONLINE Westfield.com.au
UNLIMITED FASHION ONE CHECKOUT

their name in Aussie football history without two of their most experienced strikers in injured pair Lisa De Vanna and Sarah Walsh. Up stepped the likes of Simon - who scored the decisive shootout penalty against DPR Korea - and Kerr, who opened the scoring for Australia in the final with a cool finish. These two starlets are now regulars.

Furthermore, the re-emergence of Sydney FC striker Catherine Cannuli has been a massive boost, with her goal against New Zealand in a friendly last month proving she can take her superb club form to the next level.

This is a hugely exciting squad and an equally exciting era is unfolding for the green and gold girls. Even with the untimely ACL injury to striker Kate Gill, Australia now have more depth in squad than ever before.

And they're going to need it.

At the FIFA Women's World Cup in Germany, the Westfield Matildas have been drawn in Group D with world power Brazil, the well-organised Norwegians and unknown Equatorial Guinea. The opening game on June 29 (local) against the South Americans will be vital. But if the 11th world ranked Australians can get through this tricky group, it's onto the quarter-finals and the sky's the limit.

That said, Westfield Matildas' keeper and captain Melissa Barbieri isn't underestimating the task at hand.

"Looking at the other groups we're definitely not in the group of death," says Barbieri. "But we are in one of the hardest.

Last time [at World Cup 2007] we played Norway, and Equatorial Guinea are unknown on the world stage, so we could dominate them. But Brazil is one of those tough ones..."

Of course, opening games in any group stage scenario are vital. We saw that with the Qantas Socceroos in the last two FIFA World Cups. Barbieri knows that by avoiding defeat it keeps Australia in contention ahead of the remaining

Depth the key for Westfield Matildas

The task of picking 18 outfield players has been the most difficult of Westfield Matildas coach Tom Sermanni's career. While the three goalkeepers - Barbieri, Casey Dumont and Lydia Williams - pick themselves, selecting the others has been more of a challenge.

But it's a good headache to have, even if deliberations on his final squad are set to feature numerous line-ball decisions.

"The final squad will be very difficult to choose," says Sermanni. "There are very few players who'd feel certain of their positions. So with that in mind, everybody feels a little on edge and tense."

Despite the tension, there's also a swagger about the group which the coach has picked up during the many recent training camps at the AIS, Central Coast and Gold Coast. He's hoping it continues to Germany, even if this squad is significantly less experienced than the 2007 side.

"They've got a real confidence, belief and ambition in themselves," reveals Sermanni.

Samantha Kerr
Position Striker

Thea Slatyer
Position Defender

Melissa Barbieri
Position Goalkeeper

The Socceroos effect...

There's been a surprising but very welcome revolution in Aussie women's football over the last four years. Many felt the Westfield Matildas were set for a period of building after the retirement of experienced heads like Cheryl Salisbury, Di Alagich and Joey Peters. But with the Westfield W-League kicking off in 2008 it's ushered in - perhaps quicker than most thought - a new era of players with technique and tactical awareness.

This was seen clearly a year ago when a youngish squad shocked many observers by not only making the semi-finals - thereby qualifying for the FIFA Women's World Cup - but actually lifting the trophy in a penalty shoot-out thriller against DPR Korea.

What stood out was the incredible coolness under pressure. Each of Australia's spot-kicks in that pressure cooker shoot-out were dispatched with ease. It was emblematic of what Sermanni says is this squad's belief in their ability and strength of character.

It bodes well for the future. Now with the FIFA Women's World Cup and a tough group stage ahead, it will be a measure of how far this new era of players has come.

We've come a very long way in four years. How far we'll soon find out.

two matches, and she feels Australia may have an advantage when they walk out on against Brazil in Monchengladbach. "That first game is critical so it's crucial we come out firing," the 31-year-old Melbourne Victory star says. "Brazil might not know that much about us or might not fear us because they've had wins against us in the past. Hopefully we can capitalise on that.

"Brazil play very fluently but I think we can dominate them in transition. Brazilians aren't renowned for their defensive nature so I think with our speed up front and our ability to transition from defence into attack, if we keep that mentality, we'll surprise them like we did at the last World Cup where got two quick goals."

If there's any truth in the saying that you learn more from your defeats than your wins, what can the Westfield Matildas learn from the defeat in 2007? As it turns out, it might be the Brazilians who'll have to do the studying on their opponent, according to Australia's captain.

"We're such a different team to last time [in 2007] and with such a larger base of players [to choose from]," explains Barbieri. "We're at that stage now where they're going to have to learn about us. And winning the AFC Asian Cup brings a lot of attention to us so I'm sure they'll do their homework.

"We've beaten them before 1-0 in the Peace Cup. So there's no reason why we can't do that again."

Four years ago, Westfield Matildas striker Kyah Simon watched the FIFA 2007 Women's World Cup on TV with friends. She was just 15, a rising star but still an unknown on the national scene. Four years later, she's one of the first names on the team sheet.

"It was a real adrenalin rush and [watching the game] made me feel like I wanted to be amongst it," recalls Simon, who'll turn 20 just four days before the clash with Brazil. "It's definitely a long way from me sitting in the lounge watching them four years ago."

Simon has quickly become a Westfield W-League superstar after sweeping the board at a glittering awards ceremony earlier this year, while her importance to the national team was underlined with a sizzling goal against New Zealand in May's preparatory friendly in Gosford.

"Playing a powerhouse team like Brazil will be life-changing," she says with a sense of excitement. "The main thing is preparation and we have to allow ourselves to get the best preparation - be it physically, mentally or just gelling as a team to give us the best chance we can against all three teams.

"Brazil is an amazing team but we still have to win our other games or at least get the right results to get to the quarter finals. That first game is always important but I think I can speak on behalf of all the girls by saying we want to go into every game hoping for a win.

"Anything's possible but if five points gets us through [the group] I'd be over the moon."

The group opener is set to offer players like Simon a chance to test their level against the very best in the world. Brazil feature some of the world's greatest footballers, including 25-year-old superstar striker Marta, the current Female World Player of the Year, an award she has won five times.

"I'll have to take a step back for a couple of seconds and let it sink in," Simon says, before adding. "Then go out and do my thing. Marta's Marta and the Matildas are the Matildas ... and Kyah's Kyah!" Perth Glory prodigy Sam Kerr - a game-changer in her own right - believes Simon is hitting form at just the right time to make a mark on the tournament.

"Kyah, she's had an amazing season in the Westfield W-League and she's taken that form into camp," says Kerr. "She's killing it in training.. it's an exciting team and a new team, this Matildas ... but also scary. It's hard to make the starting XI, it's good to have depth but also scary for players like myself..

"We're not one of the big name teams but you never know how far we can go." ■

Cover girl

For the first time in FourFourTwo magazine history anywhere in the world, a female footballer graces the front cover this month. Pele, Maradona, Cantona, Beckham... now Kerr, Barbieri and Simon.

"I used to think being in the same magazine as ones with Beckham on the front cover was pretty special. Now I'm on the front cover," says Barbieri with a laugh.

"Hopefully you're average Joe might just pick this up. And maybe a few female readers will start on the FourFourTwo bandwagon."

"To sport our new kit on the front cover of FourFourTwo, it doesn't get any better than that," adds Slatyer. Likewise, Simon was well proud when told the news. "It's amazing women's football is starting to get recognised and it couldn't be better than on a worldwide football magazine like FourFourTwo."

The July issue is out now.

THE YOUNG AND THE RESTLESS

After impressing in Asia, an exciting Qantas Young Socceroo squad are ready for next month's FIFA U-20 World Cup WORDS Aidan Ormond

Tommy Oar, one of the key Qantas Young Socceroos for Colombia this July

FIFA U-20 WORLD CUP 2011 GROUPS

- Group A (Bogota/Cali)
- Group B (Cali/Bogota)
- Group C (Manizales/Pereira)
- Group D (Armenia/Pereira)
- Group E (Barranquilla/Cartagena)
- Group F (Medellin/Cartagena)

JUST AS THE WESTFIELD MATILDAS have undergone a renaissance in the last few years, so too have the Qantas Young Socceroos. And if you want evidence, cast your mind back to last October in China.

At the AFC U-19 Championships in China, the Qantas Young Socceroos banged in 15 goals in six matches, topping a difficult group featuring regional heavyweights Korea Republic and Iran, before accounting for United Arab Emirates in the quarter-final to confirm qualification for Colombia.

> "The manner in which the Qantas Young Socceroos played caused much excitement"

But it didn't end there. An eye-catching 2-0 semi-final win against Saudi Arabia earned the Aussies a spot in the final, where a last-gasp goal by DPR Korea denied the young Aussies glory in a 3-2 thriller.

However, the manner in which the Qantas Young Socceroos played – constantly attacking, technically adept and sparked by standout individual performances – caused much excitement for the future.

Looking ahead to the FIFA U-20 World Cup, played July 29 to August 20 in Colombia, the Qantas Young Socceroos have been drawn in Group C, alongside Ecuador, Costa Rica and Spain. Clearly it's no easy task, as Qantas Young Socceroo coach Jan Versleijen concedes.

"It's always said that there are no easy matches at a World Cup and from looking at our group this is definitely true," says

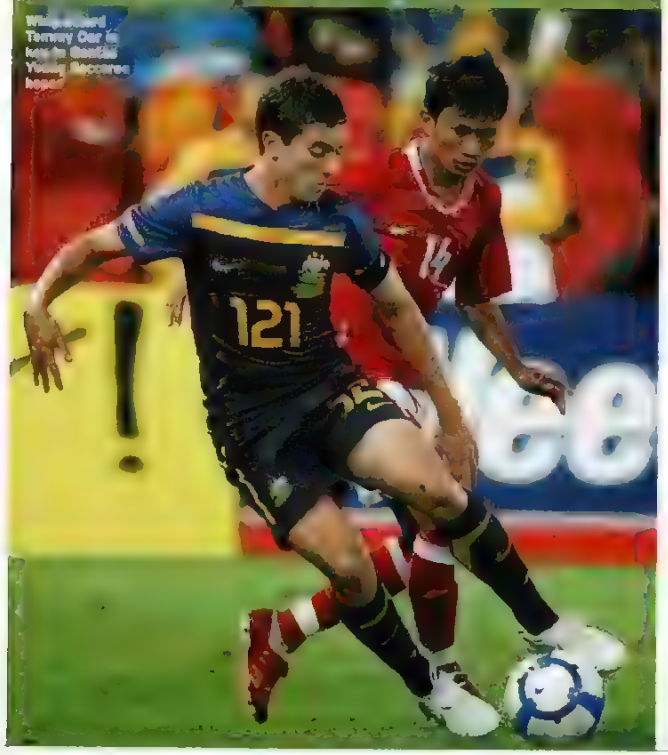
GROUP OPPONENTS

SPAIN
This is the squad that won the 2008 UEFA U-17 Euro Championships after walloping France 4-0. In qualification for Colombia, Luis Milla's side rightfully went into last year's U-19 Euro Championships in France confident. Victories over Croatia, Portugal and Italy gave them top spot in their section and a place in the semi-finals against England, who they duly dispatched 3-1 to set up another final against France. But the free-scoring French had revenge on their minds after the loss two years earlier and they defeated their Iberian neighbours 2-1.

ECUADOR
A dark horse in the group, 'La Tri-color' will feel at home in the Colombian conditions, though this is their first appearance at a FIFA U-20 World Cup since 2001. Coach Sixto Vizuete's side just edged it in qualification, courtesy of a 1-0 victory over Chile on the final day of the six-team round of matches in Peru. With a strong defensive record – the best of all teams in the Peru tournament – Vizuete hopes to build his team around it's strengths at the back.

COSTA RICA
After losing to Costa Rica 3-0 in the 2009 FIFA U-20 World Cup in Egypt, the Qantas Young Socceroos should know what to expect from them as a team. And that team impressed massively, taking out third place after losing to Brazil in the semi-finals. In CONCACAF qualifiers for 2011, Costa Rica scored 15 times as Ronald Gonzalez's team looked impressive before losing 3-1 to Mexico in the final.

Playmaker Mustafa Amini is set to steal the show in Colombia



Midfield general Tommy Oar is key to Qantas Young Socceroos hopes

QANTAS YOUNG SOCCEROO STARS

THE CAPTAIN

Ben Kantarovski (above) leads the team from central midfield and is expected to be fit after suffering a knee injury in training last December.

The Newcastle Jet has been playing Hyundai A-League football regularly over recent seasons and has been linked with a move to Bayern Munich in recent times, such is the buzz surrounding him.

The 19-year-old is one of the most influential players in the squad and comes with a vast array of experience, making his A-League debut as a 16-year-old.

THE PLAYMAKER

Mustafa Amini (left, above) has been arguably the most impressive youngster in Australian football over the last 12 months. He caught the eye last October as one of the key players in the Qantas Young Socceroos' AFC U-19 success.

His performances in China propelled the charismatic 18-year-old into the Central Coast Mariners first team. Amini went on to start in this year's Hyundai A-League Grand Final.

'Musti' has vision, touch and technique and also bears a striking resemblance to Colombian legend Carlos Valderrama, which should make him an instant hit with the locals.

THE WING WIZARD

Lightning quick Tommy Oar (left) is one Australian player to have already experienced the FIFA U-20 World Cup back in 2009. Since then he's had call-ups to the national team and played at Anfield with his Dutch club FC Utrecht in a Europa League tie. Not bad for a 19-year-old.

It was Oar's work down the flanks with fellow wing wizard Matt Leckie that caused so much damage in China last October and you sense the former Brisbane Roar starlet is an even better player now.

THE MATCHES

The Qantas Young Socceroos will play their first match against Ecuador on Sunday July 31, then face Costa Rica on Wednesday August 3, before their final group match against Spain on Saturday August 6.

Tickets have been selling extremely well in Colombia with big crowds expected for this showpiece event.

Versleijen. "We played Costa Rica at the last World Cup in Egypt so we are familiar with their style of play. Spain is one of the strongest teams in Europe and they are famous for their youth development, so we are expecting them to be very tough.

"Ecuador is the unknown quantity within the group, so we will have to be on our game playing them in a climate they are accustomed to."

Ever since Australia qualified, preparations have been methodical. Versleijen's squad has been in camp several times over recent months, together with the Qantas Olyroos, who themselves are preparing for London 2012 Olympic Games qualifiers under coach Aurelio Vidmar.

This month the Qantas Young Socceroos head to the prestigious Terborg Tournament in Holland, playing teams such as Holland's Ajax, Brazil's Botafogo and Mexico's Atlas Guadalajara. Then the squad will travel to the USA in mid-July for a pre-tournament camp in Denver, Colorado before moving to their base camp in the Colombian city of Manizales, situated 2300m above sea-level, for the first phase of the tournament.

"The altitude will also be a major factor at this tournament, so we will need to plan our physical and tactical preparation accordingly," explains Versleijen, who has coached at club level in the Netherlands, Japan, the United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia, as well as the Dutch U-17 and U-23 teams.

So, with the altitude and the quality of opposition, there's little doubt the Colombian assignment will be tricky. But for the Australians one advantage might be experience. At the 2009 FIFA U-20 World Cup in Egypt, the Qantas Young Socceroos featured a number of younger players who are likely to wear the green and gold in Colombia – a big plus in a tournament with such a high turnover of players. Additionally, a number of the current crop are regulars in the Hyundai A-League, with many of youngsters benefitting from three years under Versleijen's tutelage and in an elite development structure.

> "Our target is to progress past the group phase... then anything's possible."

The Qantas Young Socceroos have a fine history in this tournament. At the 1993 edition, hosted by Australia, a Kevin Muscat-led side reached the semis. Two years earlier they'd reached the last four in Portugal, with the likes of Paul Okon and Mark Bosnich starring. In 1995, Mark Viduka scored four of Australia's five group stage goals. Little wonder Versleijen is eager to write a glorious new chapter in Qantas Young Socceroo history.

"The players and staff are getting excited about the prospect of playing against the best in the world," he says. "Competition for places is getting tougher. Our target will be to progress beyond the group phase and from there anything is possible." ■

Future looks bright with this duo

Meet two young players who can be future regular Qantas Socceroos

WORDS Aidan Ormond

Mitchell Langerak

Age 22
Club: Borussia Dortmund
Position Goalkeeper
National honours Qantas Young Socceroos, Qantas Socceroos
Clubs Melbourne Victory, Bundaberg Waves, Tien Tigers, AIS

The Dortmund shot-stopper caught the eye in his first season in the Bundesliga

It's not often an Australian player under the age of 25 can say he won a major European title in his first season abroad, but that's the story of Mitchell Langerak's sensational 12 months at Borussia Dortmund

Initially bought in to provide cover and learn the ropes behind first-choice keeper Roman Weidenfeller, Langerak was thrust front and centre in the week leading up to a crucial game against Bayern Munich. Weidenfeller went down with a knee injury in training and coach Juergen Klopp called on the Queensland-born custodian to step into the breach. Dortmund were top of the Bundesliga table but they hadn't beaten Bayern at their place for 19 years.

Nerves? Nah, the 22-year-old former Qantas Young Socceroo ripped it up on debut and was one of the stars in an eye-catching 3-1 win.

Klopp told bvb.de after the game: "Mitch protected the lead for us and, all things told, he controlled everything terrifically."

Even his team-mates were eager to talk up their new Aussie glovesman, with midfielder Sven Bender telling Die Welt: "He's an outstanding goalkeeper who deserves this opportunity."

And take the opportunity he did in a crucial win cementing Borussia's spot at the top and helped them on their way to their first title since 2001-02.

At international level, Langerak's performances and attitude has also paid off. He was called into Qantas Socceroo coach Holger Osieck's squad when Australia were in Germany to play – and beat – 'Die Mannschaft' 2-1 in a friendly in March. And he's back this month for the Serbia and New Zealand games.

Coincidentally, the current undisputed Qantas Socceroo number one Mark Schwarzer also played much of his early European career in Germany. And both keepers have similar attributes – physically imposing, great in one-on-ones and dominant around their penalty area.

"Dortmund has a big name, a big tradition. The fact that this team wanted to have me was like a present for me," said Langerak.

The future looks bright for the Qantas Socceroo keeping ranks with Langerak now in the mix for future appearances in the green and gold. And for 'Die Borussen'.

Mustafa Amini

18
Central Coast Manners
Ion Playmaker
Qantas Young Socceroos
Blacktown City, AIS

It's been a breakthrough 12 months for the instantly recognisable Qantas Young Socceroo playmaker

One of the feel-good stories over the last year has been the rise of Mustafa Amini, the charismatic, skilful and big-haired playmaker from the Central Coast. At just 17 years old, he has lit up the Hyundai A-League with the Mariners, while emerging as a key figure in the success of the FIFA U-20 World Cup-bound Qantas Young Socceroos.

Last October's AFC U-19 Championships in China were Australia's chance to shine on the continental stage and for the final four nations, there was the added bonus of a spot in Colombia at the FIFA U-20 World Cup at stake

The Qantas Young Socceroos did shine with Amini influential for coach Jan Versleijen's team, pulling the strings for a potent Aussie strike-force and chiming in with two wonderful efforts himself against UAE and Iran.

"Tommy Oar on the left; Matthew Leckie on the right and Kantarovski and Grant behind, with Matthew Fletcher in front," says Amini. "Just having those players around you, having the confidence to play with them and them having the confidence in you is great.

"Jan [Versleijen] is a great coach. You can just tell he's a different coach to others from his training sessions and tactical stuff. How he wants his ball-speed quicker, it's how it is in Europe."

Young Amini's resurgence didn't stop in China, with the teen soon selected for the Central Coast first team upon his return from securing a place in Colombia for Australia.

His maiden Hyundai A-League goal soon came and he ended the season making over 20 appearances for the yellow and blue, capping off the year as a starting XI player in that unforgettable finale against Brisbane Roar

Not bad for someone still just 17.

"I went into pre-season with the Mariners and I was like, 'What am I doing here? I should be back with at the AIS with my boys'," recalls the west Sydney-born youngster. "But then I got stronger and faster and the ball just came to me and I got used to it.

Now, Amini is indispensable and, if still at the club next season, appears to have a firm grip on the playmaker role.

Meantime, the small matter of a FIFA U-20 World Cup in Colombia is next as Amini aims to further boost his growing reputation (just visit his growing Facebook page to see how popular Musty is!).

All of which is good news for red afro wig-sellers all around Gosford.

BE PART OF THE TEAM AND PICK UP YOUR GEAR NOW!

Official Qantas Socceroos merchandise on sale now around the ground.

shop online at shop.footballaustralia.com.au

SHOOT SCORE

Test your friends or quietly exercise your grey matter. No prizes, just a bit of fun!

1	Name the Qantas Socceroo scorers in the 2-1 victory over Germany earlier this year?
2	What was the result of the friendly between New Zealand and the Qantas Socceroos at the MCG in May 2010?
3	When was the last time the Qantas Socceroos played in Adelaide?
4	Which club does 22 year old Qantas Socceroo Matt Spiranovic play for?
5	Who scored the Qantas Socceroos' second goal in the 6-0 semi-final win over Uzbekistan at the 2011 AFC Asian Cup?
6	In which Australian state was Qantas Young Socceroo Matthew Leckie born?
7	How old is Qantas Socceroo Carl Valeri?
8	Who did Qantas Socceroo legend John Aloisi come on for against Japan in the 57th minute of the opening group game at the 2006 FIFA World Cup?
9	Who did Robbie Kruse replace as a substitute in the final of the 2011 AFC Asian Cup last January?
10	Name the English club where Qantas Socceroo keeper Mark Schwarzer spent almost a decade?
11	How many Qantas Socceroo caps were earned by retired Qantas Socceroo midfielder Joe Skoko?
12	How many times did Kevin Muscat play for the Qantas Socceroos?
13	Who will the Westfield Matildas play first in their group at this month's FIFA Women's World Cup?
14	Who scored the winning shootout penalty for the Westfield Matildas at the 2010 AFC Asian Cup final?
15	In what year did Qantas Socceroo coach Holger Osieck win the FIFA World Cup as an assistant coach for Germany?

ANSWERS: 1 Luke Wilkshire and Dario Vidosic 2 2-1 to Australia 3 2004 4 Hume Red Dragons 5 Sasa Ognenovski 6 Victoria 7 29 8 Lucas Neill 9 Harry Kewell 10 Middlesbrough 11 81 12 81 13 Brazil 14 Mark Simon 15 1950

Australian Government
Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet
Australian Sports Commission

FUNDING FOR ELITE INDIGENOUS SPORTSPEOPLE

Have you been selected for a state/territory or national team?
Do you need financial assistance?

Funding is available for travel and accommodation expenses up to $1500 per person for national events and $4000 per person for international events during a financial year.

Indigenous sportspeople including athletes, coaches, managers, officials and trainers can apply if:

- they are participating in an official national sporting championship or are selected in the official Australian team to participate at an international event, endorsed by an Australian Sports Commission recognised state or national sporting organisation
- they are participating in a national school sport championship, endorsed by School Sport Australia
- their application is supported by the relevant state or national sporting organisation, or state or national school sport organisation.

The Elite Indigenous Travel and Accommodation Assistance Program (EITAAP) is jointly managed by the Australian Sports Commission and the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet.

Visit ausport.gov.au/eitaap for more information.

ADELAIDE'S SOCCEROOS STORY

A tale of two stadiums, numerous stars and one football-mad city

WORDS Aidan Ormond

ADELAIDE'S QANTAS SOCCEROO HISTORY is inevitably linked with the city's most famous football stadium: Hindmarsh.

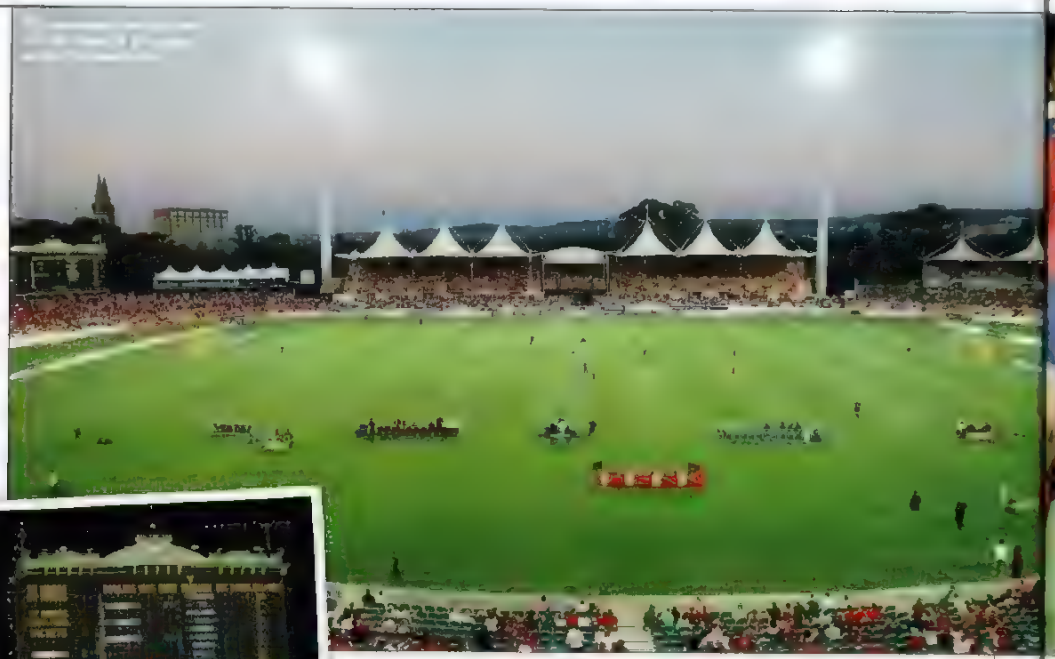
The 15,500 seater stadium, built in 1960, was refurbished in 2000 for the Olympics and now boasting one of the best surfaces in the country, last hosted the Qantas Socceroos in 2004 as part of OFC Oceania qualifiers for the 2006 FIFA World Cup.

Those games were the beginning of what was to become Australia's first successful FIFA World Cup qualification since the 1974 FIFA World Cup. The players on show in those games included Tim Cahill - who was soon to become a household name in the green and gold.

Coincidentally the first game of those qualifiers was against New Zealand. And we are likely to see a few of the same All-White players today as we saw back on May 29, 2004 when Shane Smeltz was one of the up-and-comers. For Australia, Brett Emerton played that day and he's in this month's squad. The Qantas Socceroos defeated the Kiwis 1-0 thanks to a Mark Bresciano effort just before the break.

Easy victories over Fiji, Vanuatu and Tahiti were followed by a shock 2-2 draw with the Solomon Islands, also at Hindmarsh.

However, eventually the Qantas Socceroos did the job and as we all know, a South Australian called John Aloisi powered us into the finals in Germany. In the decades prior, Hindmarsh stadium hosted some memorable nights. A 1-0 victory over Sweden in 1992 and later that year a 3-1 win against Croatia (featuring Slaven Bilic) were creditable results for Australia at that time.



DID YOU KNOW?

The national team played South Australia in 1950, winning 6-0 in Kilburn, Adelaide. The green and gold had just returned from a tour of South Africa and began a home tour in WA before sailing into South Australia. The game is said to have taken place during the unloading and loading of cargo on their ship 'Arawa'. What's more a touring Ferencvaros played an Australian XI in 1957 at Adelaide's Prospect Oval winning 3-0.

But in 1986 someone who was to become a familiar name in the Hyundai A-League graced the Hindmarsh turf: Frantisek "Franz" Straka was a majestic defender for the former Czechoslovakia when they played and defeated the Qantas Socceroos 1-0 in a friendly encounter.

Some 25 years later Straka was to become one of the most recognisable and likable coaches in the Hyundai A-League with North Queensland Fury.

A year earlier it was less of a tight affair as Glasgow-born South Australian David Mitchell smashed a hat-trick in a 7-0 green and gold romp over Chinese Taipei in a FIFA World Cup qualifier.

But in 1984 the extravagantly named "World Series Of Soccer" rolled into Hindmarsh as part of a national road-show tour featuring Manchester United, Glasgow Rangers, Notts Forest as well as Australia 'A' and 'B'.

Hindmarsh hosted Forest and Rangers in two 1-1 draws against the Australians. The Rangers side featured Dave McPherson who later played club football in Australia for former NSL club Carlton.

And at the start of the decade Northern Ireland toured to help celebrate Australia's football centenary, with Martin O'Neill in the side that defeated Australia 2-1 in Adelaide.

The USSR also visited the famous Hindmarsh stadium in the 1970s winning 3-0.

That said, Adelaide Oval has also played a part. It last hosted the national team on May 24, 1958 when Australia played a touring Blackpool side that dazzled Aussie audiences.

The Seasiders featured one of the greatest ever players the world had seen in the post-war era: English wing wizard Sir Stanley Matthews.

In the middle of a rampaging tour that took in Sydney, Brisbane and Melbourne, Blackpool

> "Sir Stanley Matthews played in front of huge Adelaide crowds"

won every one of their five games, scoring 25 and conceding just six.

Crowds were massive for this tour with the biggest - 30,000 - reserved for Adelaide Oval. The tangerine shirts captained by Hugh Kelly sailed into Adelaide Oval and defeated Australia 1-0 – the closest score of any of their five games on Australian soil.

Adding to the tour's allure, the Australians had their own star with legendary Joe Marston – he of Preston North End and English FA Cup final fame – captaining the home side in the South Australian capital.

In later years this historic venue – famous for cricket – has also become a popular venue for the Hyundai A-League hosting some cracking Christmas time matches in the last few seasons. Last season the Reds also hosted a Hyundai A-League finals game at the refurbished Oval.

Adelaide was always a popular venue for the Qantas Socceroos in previous years. However, times changed. With the building or refurbishing of some major venues across the eastern seaboard (particularly Sydney's ANZ stadium, Melbourne's Etihad stadium and Brisbane's Suncorp stadium) the last decade has seen the green and gold pack out these venues.

These stadiums have coincided with the rise in popularity of the national team since FIFA World Cup qualification in 2005. So today's game at the Oval against New Zealand is a chance for the fans of South Australia – one of the genuine hotbeds of Aussie football – to reconnect with their beloved green and gold once again.

It should be another wonderful night in the history of the Socceroos in Adelaide. ■

GREAT SA SOCCEROOS

The Vidmar brothers

Adelaide-born Aurelio was a superb striker for the Qantas Socceroos, though he often played just in behind the frontline. From 53 appearances, he banged in 18 goals and was one of our most cultured players. At club level he was a one-time Belgium league top scorer and was voted Oceania Player of the Year in 1995. He played almost ten seasons for Adelaide City sandwiched between a stellar career in Spain, Belgium, Holland, Switzerland and Japan. He is now coaching the Qantas Olyroos after a successful stint in the dugout at Hindmarsh taking the Reds to an AFC Champions League final in 2008.

Brother Tony also began with Adelaide City and went on to play in Scotland with Glasgow Rangers as well as England's Middlesbrough, NAC Breda in Holland and Cardiff City. He returned to play in the Hyundai A-League at the tail end of his career. A classy defender for the Qantas Socceroos, he made almost 100 appearances over a 15 year period before retiring in 2006 as one of our greats. He is now coaching in South Australia at SASI and from all reports is on his way to becoming an excellent coach.

John Aloisi

Quite simply an Australian sporting icon after his iconic moment in 2005 against Uruguay and subsequent performances at the 2006 FIFA World Cup. For Aloisi, it all started with Adelaide City 20 years ago before becoming the first Australian to play in all three major European leagues in Spain, Italy and England.

For the national team his goal-ratio was fabulous with 27 goals in 56 appearances after debuting in 1997 against Macedonia.

And he kept scoring upon his return to Australia's Hyundai A-League at Central Coast, Sydney FC and finally Melbourne Heart before he retired earlier this year. He is now coaching Heart youth.

David Mitchell

Mitchell was a star striker for the Qantas Socceroos with 13 goals from 44 games - his last in 1993. The Glasgow-born Mitchell was part of the 1985 FIFA World Cup qualifiers against Scotland.

A proud South Australian, he learnt his football locally with clubs such as Adelaide City before an excellent European career at clubs such as Glasgow Rangers, Eintracht Frankfurt, Feyenoord, Chelsea and Swindon.

He returned to Australia to coach in the old NSL with some success and was also coach in the Hyundai A-League with Perth Glory.

SOCCEROO THROUGH AND THROUGH...

Socceroo Sisterhood (Jess is on the left)

Aloisi's goal... tops with Jess

Jess Martin

One of a family of four girls Jess is football – and Socceroo – crazy

How long have you been a Roo fan?
My first game was in 1993 at the SFS when the Socceroos played Canada in the home leg of World Cup qualifying for USA '94. I went with my Dad and I remember thinking, "This is awesome!". The match went to extra-time and a penalty shoot-out where Mark Schwarzer saved the day!

What got you into football?
My Dad is the proud father of four daughters and he's played football all his life. There was never going to be netball or dancing, so it was always football from the start and it's been that way ever since. I started playing when I was six when not many other girls were playing 'The Beautiful Game' and I haven't stopped.

What is it about the green and gold that fires your football passion?
Football is the underdog of sporting codes. To see where Australian football has come from, its history and the potential of the game in this country and overseas excites me. I can't wait for the day when the Socceroos win their first major trophy playing their own style of football.

What do you feel when the national anthem is played?
It always gives me goose-bumps. It's one of my favourite parts of any match.

Tell us about the camaraderie with other Socceroo fans?
If you've been supporting the Socceroos for a long time you know what it's like. There have been major highs (think Nov 16, 2005) and monumental lows (Iran in 1997) and it's that feeling and those memories that bond Socceroos fans together. It's like a secret handshake that everyone knows without actually ever saying anything.

Favouritie Socceroo moment, and why?
Johnny Aloisi when he slotted home that penalty. Every Socceroos fan experienced the ride of their lives that night; grown men crying, people hugging. Non-football fans recall it as one of the most amazing moments in sporting history and to this day, it still brings a tear to my eye.

Best away trip?
When the Socceroos played Japan at the MCG in a World Cup qualifier in 2009. It was freezing cold and a Cahill brace saw Australia finish top of their group. It was a great occasion, a massive crowd and the two teams were still playing for something.

Favourite stadium where you've seen the Socceroos play?
Suncorp Stadium in Brisbane.

Favourite Socceroo and why?
It's a toss-up between Harry Kewell and John Aloisi. I fell in love with Harry (he's an absolute spunk!) in 1997 against Iran and have loved him ever since. But John gave me my favourite Socceroo memory and scored the winner for Sydney FC when we won the Premiership in 2009-10.

Holger: your thoughts?
He gave Matt Mackay and Robbie Kruse a run over more more established names. In Holger we trust. ■

JESS AT A GLANCE

Team you play for? Balmain Districts FC, Sydney
Hyundai A-League side? Sydney FC
Occupation Website and Content Manager

Hoping for extra time.

Written by Fairfax Travel Writers,
'South Australia. The best of Traveller' is an inspiring
guide to the state's best holiday destinations. Best of all, it's free.

For your free copy, call or SMS* 'Book' to 13 GO SA (13 46 72) or visit southaustralia.com

Isn't it about time you had a holiday in South Australia?

South Australia.
A brilliant blend.

*Standard SMS rates apply, not available Vodafone and 3.

Our grateful thanks to all our commercial partners
for their support of Football

Official Sponsors

QANTAS · Westfield · HYUNDAI · SOLO · nab · Australian Government Australian Sports Commission · FOX SPORTS · 'yes' OPTUS · SONY · Weet-Bix · nutella · tabsportsbet · Government of South Australia · South Australia. A brilliant blend.

EDITOR Aidan Ormond
CONTRIBUTORS Trevor Treharne, Fraser Kid
ART DIRECTOR Sam Grimmer
HEAD DESIGNER Katherine Power
SUB EDITOR Paul Hansford
PREPRESS Nathan Sargent
PHOTOGRAPHY Getty Images

EDITOR IN CHIEF Trevor Treharne
PUBLISHER Andy Jackson
SALES MANAGER Graham Heard
TO ADVERTISE CALL (02) 8399 7690
GROUP PRODUCTION MANAGER
Angela Sutherland
PRINTERS Webstar, Sydney

MANAGING DIRECTOR Jeremy Vaughan
The Socceroo was produced by Haymarket Media Pty Ltd. (ABN 61 083 063 914), 52 Victoria Street, McMahons Point, NSW 2060.
Material or images from this magazine may not be reproduced without prior permission from the publisher. © 2009

haymarket

NUMBER CRUNCH

All the numbers you need to know about Australia's opponent New Zealand

4,315,800 Population of New Zealand

8 Number of teams in the ASB Premiership (New Zealand's top league)

60 Current FIFA World Ranking

1 Number of New Zealand teams in the Hyundai A-League

342 Number of registered clubs

102,257 Number of registered players

2 Number of appearances at FIFA World Cup

0 Number of times New Zealand lost at the 2010 FIFA World Cup

29 Age of star striker Shane Smeltz

28 Number of years between those two appearances at a FIFA World Cup

We're not popular with the other banks anymore.

Wonder why?

We're not popular with the other banks right now. Perhaps it's because we're showing their customers there is a better way, with lower interest rates, no exit fees on NAB Home Loans and more competition. Perhaps they're annoyed we saved our customers hundreds of millions of dollars last year. So even though they're a little grumpy, we're overjoyed. Because, better, fairer and more competitive banking is something Australia needs.

To find out what else is making us unpopular with the other banks visit nab.com.au/breakup

nab

©2011 National Australia Bank Limited ABN 12 004 044 937 AFSL 230686 NBB1593

more give, less take

5 second check-in
90 minute game
Faster, smarter check-in
Getting to the game is now easier than ever. Your Qantas card* provides a new level of premium service with intelligent Q chip technology. It's just part of our new domestic check-in experience that helps you breeze through the airport and onto your flight. Make your next destination qantas.com
Enjoy the journey
QANTAS
Faster Smarter Check-in by Qantas currently available in Sydney, Perth, Melbourne, Brisbane and Adelaide Qantas Domestic terminals. Coming soon to Canberra Qantas Domestic terminal. Qantas card available to Platinum, Gold, and Silver Frequent Flyers and members of the Qantas Club.